



HOLY TRINITY
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
UNITED KINGDOM

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6th January 2012

Holy Trinity International School: Application for Free School status

Dear Parents,

Holy Trinity International School has decided to take a major step forward in its long history of serving families in the Kidderminster area by submitting an application to the Secretary of State for Education to become a Free School. Free Schools are an initiative of the current Coalition Government designed to provide a more varied educational offer to children and families in areas of the country where there is evidence of demand for such provision. Free Schools are indeed 'free', both in the sense that there is no charge for education and because they are able to develop their own educational programmes.

Holy Trinity at present offers a high quality education to boys and girls aged 4-19 in a warm family atmosphere which enables pupils to develop their talents to the full. It also has a thriving nursery and kindergarten. It has an excellent record of academic success and outstanding achievements in many aspects of the curriculum including the arts and sport. Unfortunately there are many families keen to have their children educated at the school who are at present unable to pay the fees required by a private school or who are only able to do so with substantial fee discounts and/or scholarships awarded on merit.

The Government's Free School scheme provides an opportunity both to maintain the school's existing high quality of education, ensuring continuity for existing parents who have supported us so loyally over many years, and to extend the benefits of this education to a wider range of local families. Returning the school to its former levels of enrolment will also enable it to run more efficiently and effectively. It is hoped that higher levels of enrolment will mean wider options at GCSE and A/AS level, more sporting opportunities, and more investment in facilities than is going to be possible in current circumstances.

Holy Trinity is currently run by a not-for-profit charitable trust. This arrangement, together with the support to the trust from IES, would continue. Holy Trinity International School would keep its name and remain a member of IES's worldwide network of schools with all the educational benefits and extensive administrative support that this involves. Parents would be members of the school's governing body. The curriculum and ethos of the school, including its high standards of behaviour, courtesy and respect for others, would not change



and would indeed be jealously maintained. The main visible change would be that education at the school would be free of charge for all.

The government, before approving an application to become a Free School, requires evidence that there is sufficient local demand. All current parents will therefore be asked to complete an Evidence of Demand Questionnaire, indicating whether they would wish their child to continue to be educated at the school from September 2013, the date at which it would become a Free School. Our intention would be to reserve places for all existing pupils, but it would help us with our application to have the interest of current parents formally recorded. Questionnaires will be sent out to parents on Thursday 12th January 2012. Could all Questionnaires be returned by Friday 27th January 2012. From September 2013 the school will be subject to the Statutory Schools Admissions Code. The school is developing its own Admissions Policy, compliant with the Code, and will be making this available on the school website in due course.

An open Parents evening is being held on Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30 pm, so that any questions you may have about the proposed plan can be answered. In the meantime I attach a sheet listing some of the Frequently Asked Questions about Free Schools together with some answers.

With best wishes for the New Year

Yours sincerely



Mrs P Leek-Wright
Headteacher



Dr N Tate
Chairman of IES



Mr A McEwen
Chairman of Trustees



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HOLY TRINITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, KIDDERMINSTER: FREE SCHOOL APPLICATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is Holy Trinity International School applying to become a Free School from September 2013?

A: Holy Trinity School has a long history of providing a high quality education in an atmosphere that fully supports pupils' moral, spiritual and social development. These fundamental aims are as true today as they were in the times of our founders, even though the school has for some years now been both non-denominational and co-educational.

The purpose of the Free School application is to enable this excellent education to be made available to children whose families are currently unable to afford it, and thus to widen educational choice locally and better serve the community.

It is hoped that larger numbers at ages 14-19 will enable an even stronger GCSE and A/AS range of options to emerge in due course.

Q: What does an application to become a Free School involve?

A: Holy Trinity is applying to become a Free School as from September 2013. Detailed plans for this are currently being developed and will be submitted to the Department for Education by 24th February 2012. A crucial element in the process is being able to show that there is sufficient local demand for such a school. All current and prospective parents are being asked to complete an Evidence of Demand Questionnaire which will be sent out on Thursday 12th January and please return it to the school by **Friday 27th January**. This is also available from Mrs K Roth, Headteacher's PA and will be on the school website at www.holytrinity.co.uk from Thursday 12th January. The Secretary of State's decision about the application will be announced in the summer of 2012.

Q: What is a Free School?

A: Free Schools can be described as 'independent state schools'. They operate outside local authority control and are funded directly by central government. The level of funding per pupil is comparable to that provided for state schools. They have more freedom than other maintained schools over their finances, the curriculum and teachers' pay and conditions. They can be set up by groups of interested parents, teachers and charities. **Parents do not pay anything to send their child to a Free School.**

Q: Will the school change its name when it becomes a Free School?

A: Holy Trinity International School will retain its current name.

Q: Will the link with International Education Systems (IES) continue?

A: Yes. The school will continue to be part of the worldwide IES and SEK network which embraces schools in England, South Africa, Hungary, the USA, Spain and Latin America. There will still be opportunities each year for pupils to take part in activities in Latin America and elsewhere and pupils from these other schools will continue to join upper secondary school courses at Holy Trinity. The school will benefit, as at present, from the financial, legal and administrative support that IES provides.

Q: I am a current parent, how do I guarantee my child a place at Holy Trinity International School when it becomes a Free School in September 2013?

A: All children on the school roll will be guaranteed a place when Holy Trinity becomes a Free School.

Q: I am a prospective parent. How can I register my interest in a place for my child at Holy Trinity International School when it becomes a Free School in September 2013?

A: All parents wishing to register their interest in a place for their child at Holy Trinity International School when it becomes a Free School in September 2013 must complete an Evidence of Demand Questionnaire which is available on this website or directly from Mrs K Roth, Headteacher's PA on 01562 822929 or karen.roth@holytrinity.co.uk.

Places at almost all levels within the school are currently available. If you wish your child to start at the school in advance of September 2013 please contact Mrs K Roth, Headteacher's PA on 01562 822929 or karen.roth@holytrinity.co.uk.

Q: Will the school's admissions policy change?

A: Yes. From September 2013 the school will admit pupils in accordance with the Statutory Schools Admissions Code. Further details about the school's Admissions Policy will be published on the school website in due course.

Q: Will the school maintain its ethos?

A: Holy Trinity prides itself on its warm family atmosphere, its high standards of behaviour, its individual attention to pupils, and its focus on their moral, spiritual and social development, as well as on its high academic expectations. All this will continue once Holy Trinity becomes a Free School. Although it is hoped that numbers will increase, it will remain a small school of up to 400 pupils, with all the many well-known advantages that come from schools of this size.

Q: Will the change to Free School status have any effect on the school's curriculum?

A: Free Schools do not have to follow the National Curriculum and Holy Trinity will therefore continue to have its current freedom to develop a high quality education that meets the distinctive needs of its pupils.

In the Prep school we will continue with our plans to introduce the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme (PYP), in advance of September 2013. The PYP is a high quality educational programme, followed by 850 schools in 92 countries,

that combines a commitment to academic rigour with a focus on child-centred, enquiry-based learning and on the development of children's attitudes and values. Recent research evidence from international schools shows higher levels of performance in reading and mathematics in most grades by PYP students when compared with students following other curricula.

In the secondary school we hope that increased numbers will enable us to maintain and to expand the range of GCSE subjects on offer. A/AS levels will also continue to be on offer post-16 in the school's excellent sixth form centre. If numbers permit we will consider also introducing for 16-19 year olds in due course the academically demanding Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate.

Q: How will I be kept informed of progress in the school's Free School application?

A: A new section of the school website will be created to keep you up to date with our Free School application (www.holytrinity.co.uk). If you have indicated on the Evidence of Demand Questionnaire that you would like further information about the Free School, we will send you information on our progress by email on a regular basis.