

30th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Since Mrs Tippen left St Gregory's, we have been undergoing a recruitment process to find the next Headteacher of The Catholic School of St Gregory the Great.

We are delighted to share with you the news that, following a rigorous recruitment process, the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust — in partnership with the Local Governing Committee — has appointed Mrs Rachel Penney as the new Headteacher of St Gregory's with effect from January 1st 2026.

Mrs Penney joins us with a wealth of experience in Catholic education, much of which was spent at our school as a teacher and Assistant Head as well as working on behalf of the Diocese as a Catholic school inspector. Currently serving as Headteacher of a Worcestershire school, she is widely respected for her leadership, dedication to Gospel values, and unwavering focus on the well-being and success of every child.

Mrs Penney is very much looking forward to working in partnership with staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community, and to building on the strong foundations already in place here at St Gregory's.

We are particularly grateful to Mrs Lines, who has, and will continue to serve as Acting Headteacher during this period of transition. Her leadership, together with the continued dedication of the whole Senior Leadership Team (SLT), has ensured the school has remained a nurturing, faith-filled, and high-achieving environment. From 1st January, Mrs Lines and the SLT will continue to work closely with Mrs Penney to ensure a smooth and positive start to this new chapter.

Mrs Penney will begin a transition back into our school after half term and so you may well see her – do say hello! We know you will join us in offering a warm welcome back to our school family.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and your prayers for our school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Charlotte Blanch
CEO – Little Way Catholic Educational Trust



Mrs Anna Elliott
Chair of Local Governing Committee

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Little acts, great love, big difference

Little Way Catholic Educational Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales (15190582).
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