

## Dales Academies Trust (DAT) - Survey Monkey Comments

As at 8 September 2017

The questions and answers below are a summary of the feedback received on the online Survey Monkey questionnaires as at 8 September 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Bolton on Swale St Marys CE Primary School

#### Have you received enough information regarding our proposal?

Comment: I would like to see why other Church of England schools have chosen to opt out and see clearer benefits for our school both financial and for the pupils.

Answer: Different CofE schools may decide to apply to join the Trust in coming months and years and we would be delighted to work with other Church (and non Church) schools. Regarding the benefits for pupils and staff please refer to the main body of the report and appendices within this report.

#### Any other comments?

Comment: I understand why we entered into the consultation process to find out more information, but I would like to think that if the proposal is not financially profitable then we would walk away like other local C of E schools have done. I think we have a good school with a strong financial grounding and good results and don't see why we would benefit from entering into an academy. I can see the benefit for staff in sharing ideas but I think they can already do that through the Swaledale alliance and think we would still attract pupils and teachers to such a good school. The reason I chose this school for my children was the Christian ethos and warm feel that myself and my husband got when we visited and the personalised attention that we didn't feel our children would get at other schools. I would be afraid entering into an academy would put this individuality at risk and the pressure to combine smaller schools to make bigger more financially stable ones would be greater. I understand we have a good financial status and are not under threat. If we entered into an academy the money would all go into one pot and our needs for a peace garden or an outdoor play area would come way below other older schools in disrepair that might need a new roof or windows and fear we would miss out whereas we can allocate where money currently goes ourselves. I am very sceptical about the

benefits but trust the governors and head teacher to make the right decision for our school.

Response: This proposal is not about taking away anything from the school and we see this as an opportunity to enhance provision and enrich the learning experiences. The school will still receive and manage its own budget and governors and leaders will be held to account for their expenditure probably more than they are now. Please note academies cannot make a profit. You may have a surplus and it could be a school is generating a surplus to pay for significant items for example improved outdoor play space.

\*\*\*\*\*