



Bolton on Swale St Mary's CE Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Dobson
Chair of Governors: Clare White

Monday 19th June 2017

Possible Academy Conversion –considering options

Dear Parents,

Many of you will be aware that under Government legislation schools can choose to convert to academy status. The Governing Body of Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School has been considering carefully the schools' future in a fast-changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape. Governors have spent time researching and undertaking due diligence and would now like to consider becoming an academy.

In accordance with national government policy direction and the national agenda, a group of Church of England schools in the region are proposing to form a new multi-academy trust with the support of the Dioceses of Leeds and York called Dales Academies Trust (DAT).

The schools that are proposing to form DAT are:

- Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School
- Bolton- on -Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School
- Eppleby Forcett Church of England Primary School
- Kirkby Fleetham Church of England Primary School
- Middleton Tyas Church of England Primary School
- South Otterington Church of England Primary School
- Croft Church of England Primary School
- Barton Church of England Primary School
- Ravensworth Church of England Primary School
- Richmond Church of England Primary & Nursery School
- East Cowton Church of England Primary School
- All Saints Church of England Academy, Stockton-on-Tees (TBC)

The Dales Academy Trust intends to be a multi-academy trust based in North Yorkshire which is determined to deliver the very highest standard of education through collaboration, shared best practice and underpinned by our Christian ethos and values.

This is an exciting time for our schools and a fantastic opportunity for us to further strengthen our partnership as a family of schools and formalise the relationships between us and the Diocese of York and Leeds. By forming a trust we want to be stronger together whilst still existing as separate and autonomous schools with our own individual identity.

What is the main motivation for converting to academy status?

- To shape the provision to meet the future needs of our children, families and communities based on a local and collaborative proposal of working together and sharing best practice underpinned by our Christian ethos and values

- To develop the expertise of all staff to further improve effectiveness and outcomes for children
- To generate financial efficiencies to invest back into the classroom for the benefit of the children

Key information

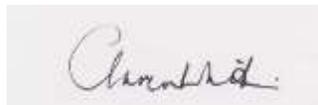
- The school is not proposing to change its character and will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now
- The School Leadership Team and Governing Body will continue to run the school as they do now, and parents will continue to be represented on the Governing Body
- The name of the school will not change, nor will the uniform and the school will not change its admissions policy
- Children with special needs will continue to receive additional support in the way they do now
- Our local schools will continue to work very closely together for each other as well as your children, and will be provided with more support to help them become even better
- The multi-academy trust arrangements will share some central services across the schools which will help them be more efficient and make sure that funding is focused on teaching, learning and support for children
- The multi-academy trust will work very closely and co-operatively with local partners, including other schools, community groups and organisations, and the local authority.

We would like to consult with others about these plans and would welcome the views of parents, staff, the Diocese, governors and the wider community.

On Wednesday 12th July at 6pm in Bolton-on-Swale St. Mary's CE Primary School we will be holding a Parent's Consultation Meeting. We hope to gain your views and to answer any questions you may have. If this date/time is not possible for you we have a selection of similar events taking place on a variety of dates at different schools. Please see the school website for the full timetable.

We look forward to seeing you at the Parent's Consultation Meeting. More information can be obtained from our school website www.bolton-on-swale.n-yorks.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Dobson
Headteacher

Clare White
Chair of Governors



