



Dear Community Members,

At a recent Governing body meeting and visit to the school, the Diocese of Chester provided information to the Board of Governors on the Diocese's Multi-Academy Trust (Chester Diocesan Academies Trust - CDAT), which is being offered to schools within the Diocese who wish to take advantage of an Academy model.

Rationale

As a consequence of the national picture and continued growth of academies in England, the Board of Governors decided to look into whether an academy model would be in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff at Bosley St. Mary's CE Primary School. As such, we consulted previously on a proposal to join Rural Church Schools Academy Trust (RCSAT) and took the decision not to pursue this option at that time.

Subsequently, the Governing Body met with CDAT and discussed the advantages of becoming an academy within the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust. As one of a number of Church schools currently considering academy status, Governors consider that joining CDAT now will be a positive step for the school.

CDAT

As a Church school, we embrace any opportunity to strengthen our links with the Diocese of Chester, which we would do as an academy within the Trust. The Diocese already work closely with Bosley St. Mary's and have provided high-quality support in areas such as governance, school improvement etc. Becoming an academy would give us increased access to this support from a partner that we know and for whom we share a common Christian ethos. CDAT have received significant interest from other schools across the Diocese who would like to join the Trust, demand has been high especially from those schools that are judged to be Good or Outstanding. Strengthening our partnerships with these schools would have clear benefits for Bosley St. Mary's and the additional support available through a Trust model would be an advantage of becoming an academy.

Advantages of Academy Status

In addition to the advantages mentioned above, as Governors and Headteacher of Bosley St. Mary's we believe that the opportunity to work with new partners and schools, working together to ensure standards across the Trust are consistently high, is an exciting new proposition. However, we will continue to actively work with all local schools and current partners, ensuring the best of both worlds. CDAT has made it clear that academy status will not change all the things that work so well for our school.

Disadvantages of Academy Status

As an academy, there are a number of additional responsibilities placed on the school in terms of financial management and reporting. It is expected that on a day-to-day basis the pupils and their parents and carers, teachers and staff will not notice the difference when we become an academy. There will however be additional workloads for members of staff in the school office. CDAT recognise the additional pressures and will provide the school with a significant amount of support from specialists who will be able to pick up the majority of this additional work.





Questions and Feedback

We would like to make sure that the entire school community has had an opportunity to ask questions about what academy status means for Bosley St. Mary's. We are therefore opening up a period of consultation whereby we will be providing you with FAQ's on academisation in general and an 'Introduction to CDAT'. We would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about academy status directly but unfortunately due to the current COVID19 restrictions in place we are unable to meet in person at this time.

We would be grateful if you could submit your feedback to us by **Tuesday 3rd November 2020** with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have by completing an online survey available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K8TXL5Y>

We will then be able to make sure we can give you answers to all your questions in a further document which will be published on the school website. We will leave the consultation period open to capture any further comments or questions that may follow the initial response. If you require a paper copy of the form, please contact the school office.

Additional Information

We have included some additional information with this letter:

- An outline of the CDAT Vision (information also available at www.cdat.co.uk)
- A Frequently Asked Questions Document
- An introduction to CDAT

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Bosley St Mary's. We believe that we have a truly wonderful school here and we are committed to ensuring we provide the very best for our family.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Pollard

Chair of Governors

