

WYCLIFFE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL - ACADEMY CONVERSION

Information for our community, our parents and carers

April 2018

Following the recent OfSTED inspection, the Department for Education (DfE) have issued a Directive Academy Order for the school to convert to an academy. Further discussion with the DfE, Diocese and the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) it has been agreed that the school will convert to academy status and join the BDAT Multi-Academy Trust.

We expect to convert to become an academy later this year. Further information will be made available as conversations proceed.

This document hopes to answer you frequently asked questions on what becoming an academy will mean to you, your children and to the school community.

There will be a meeting in the summer term school for BDAT to present to parents and answer any questions you may have.

If you have further specific questions, comments or concerns, please contact:

- Carol McDermott, Executive Headteacher
- Email info@bdat-academies.org.

Q. What are academies?

A. An academy is a publicly funded independent school. Academies operate outside local authority (LA) control and have fewer controls imposed on them in comparison with LA maintained schools.

Wycliffe CE Primary School will be a sponsor academy within a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) called Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT).

A multi-academy trust is where a group of schools is governed through a single set of members and directors and form part of one company. It is a structural solution designed for schools which wish to commit to working together and to supporting each other.

Visit www.bdat-academies.org to find out more about the Trust.

Q. What are the benefits of becoming an academy?

A. Academies give education professionals greater scope to innovate and raise standards for the pupils in their schools, although remaining clearly accountable for the outcomes they deliver. Academies enjoy a number of benefits over maintained schools, which include:

- freedom from LA control;
- greater control of their budget;
- the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff;
- freedom from following the national curriculum; and
- ability to change the lengths of terms/days of school.

Q. What is BDAT?

A. Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) was set up in 2012 to support and sponsor academies in Bradford on behalf of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.

We work with our schools to provide a network of support and challenge, so working together we can achieve our vision of improved outcomes and results for our children and young people.

BDAT is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee, governed by a board of Trustees who are responsible for, and oversee the management of the company.

Q. What does joining a MAT mean to Calyton St John CE Primary School?

A. Joining a MAT means that Wycliffe CE Primary School joins a family of schools with a central Trust business and governance support. This means that some of the services the school previously relied on from the LA are managed by the Trust, leaving the school free to concentrate on teaching and learning. These are services like financial accounting, auditing, legal compliance and centralising statutory policies. The Trust also provides support in areas like HR, Payroll, clerking and school improvement to name a few examples.

Q. Will the pupils notice any difference?

A. No not really. Staff will stay the same. The school is not planning to change the length of day, term times or uniform. Of course change will happen but this will be a result of changes which would happen regardless of the school becoming an Academy and not because of it.

Q. Will our children still be taught the same curriculum?

A. Wycliffe CE Primary School Governors and senior leaders will continue to determine the school curriculum and teaching plans. We do not plan to make any changes to the curriculum or the way we teach as part of becoming an academy.

Q. Will it be more difficult for my child to get a place at the school?

A. No. Our change to become an academy will not change this and we continue to work with the LA admissions to manage this.

Q. Will the school become more Christian now it is part of a Church Trust?

A. No our vision, ethos and ambition for our children to do well will remain the same.

Q. Will staff be made redundant?

A. No. The school is not proposing any redundancies at this point, regardless of whether the school was to become an Academy or not. All staff will transfer to the Academy Trust.

Q. Won't we end up losing our good teachers as they won't want to be part of an Academy or will be sent to work in other BDAT schools?

A. No. All staff will continue to be work at Wycliffe CE Primary School and their main place of work will be this school. Of course some staff might be asked to help other local schools, but this is just the same as now. We actually think joining a Trust will help us keep our good staff as they will have more opportunities to develop their skills and work with other teachers and schools in the Trust.

Q. Who should I speak to I have a question or concern?

A. If you have further specific questions, comments or concerns, please contact:

- Carol McDermott, Executive Headteacher
- Email info@bdat-academies.org.



**Bradford Diocesan
Academies Trust**

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