



Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs O Gibbons

Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, BD20 7JS

Tel: 01535 632181

Email: admin@sutton-in-cravencofe.n-yorks.sch.uk



Monday 12th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation to convert to academy status and join the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)

You may be aware that our school is able to apply to convert to academy status. Our Headteacher and Governing Body have been carefully reviewing this option and have decided to consult with parents, carers, staff, and other stakeholders, on whether Sutton in Craven C of E VC Primary should convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

We are therefore starting formal consultation from today, **Monday 12th June 2023**, for a period of four weeks. Consultation will end at **3pm on Friday 7th July 2023**.

What is an Academy?

Academies are state schools, funded directly from the government, no longer under the control of the local authority. Academy status gives schools more freedom to be creative with the curriculum, timetabling, staffing, and governance. The school will still be a Church of England School under the authority of the Diocese of Leeds and its religious designation will not change.

All academies continue to be inspected by Ofsted and must follow the same rules as other schools on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), exclusions, and admissions. Church schools will continue to be inspected under the Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework. There are now thousands of academies in the country, including many schools that have converted in the Diocese of Leeds and in the local authority.

An academy is part of a charitable trust (sometimes called a 'MAT') run by a board of trustees. Trusts and their academies are rightly expected to work with and support other schools, including vulnerable schools. Should you wish to know more about the Government's policy, the Department for Education has its own academies bookmark on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a charitable company, led by a Chief Executive Officer who is held accountable by a Board of Trustees. As a charity, it cannot be run for financial gain and any surplus must be put back into the trust to the benefit of our children's education.

A trust is made up of a family of schools who work together to deliver the best outcomes for children. By working in partnership with each other, schools within the trust can benefit from the sharing of curriculum expertise and effective teaching practices.

In many ways, the children will not notice any immediate difference. They will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. However, in time the children will





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perhaps notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn and have greater links with each school within the Trust.

About the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

The Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust opened in 2022. The Trust converted 7 church primary schools in the Autumn term of 22/23. So far, all schools in the Trust are in North Yorkshire. However, the Trust is now expanding into Leeds – five Leeds schools have already applied to become an academy, with another due to do so. We will be the seventh school to apply to join the Trust this year.

We feel that the Trust's vision, ethos, and values will align well with our own. Information about the Trust can be found on their website: <https://ldlt.co.uk/>.

What will be the main benefits for schools within Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust?

- Access to top quality staff, including a Trust leadership team who will be focussed on securing excellence.
- Greater control over finances and how we spend our money.
- Educational benefits for pupils as a result of the freedoms available to academies in terms of the curriculum we offer, and how we use resources.
- The chance to work together with other schools and share expertise and services that will benefit all of our pupils and staff.
- The potential to employ our own experts e.g., education psychologists, dedicated primary school improvement advisers.

Will any changes to the school be made as a result of conversion?

Please be assured that the character, ethos, and values of Sutton in Craven C of E VC Primary will remain the same should we become an academy.

We do not intend to make any changes to the day-to-day running of the school following conversion, other than to adjust the governance arrangements and accountability that comes with working within a Multi Academy Trust.

More information on the process and the answers to many of the questions you may have can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document included with this letter.

How do I learn more, and how do I respond to the consultation?

At this stage we are consulting with everyone associated with our school before Governors meet again to make a final decision.

The Governing Body would very much like to hear your opinion. As well as proving the FAQs sheet, we will be holding a parent meeting on **Tuesday 20th June at 2:30pm**. Please do come along if you have any comments or questions on the academy process.

If you wish to respond in writing, we ask that you let us have your views by emailing the attached





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feedback form to admin@sutton-in-cravencofe.n-yorks.sch.uk titled 'Academisation' by **3pm on Friday 7th July 2023**. You can also hand these into the school office in a sealed envelope marked Private and Confidential. Please include your name and contact details on the feedback form.

Whilst we may not respond directly to each and every feedback form, we will provide answers to questions via the FAQs and keep this updated on our website. Please be assured your views will be taken seriously by our Governing Body when they meet to make a final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Orla Gibbons

Orla Gibbons
Headteacher

Deborah Bacon

Deborah Bacon
Chair of Governors

