



APPLICATION FOR TRUSTEES' CONDITIONAL CONSENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of these papers is to provide the Bishop and Trustees with certain guarantees, information and evidence which will enable them to evaluate properly a school's request to become an academy as well as the implications for other schools, both in the Diocese and within the local education community, and for the Diocese itself. This information will be taken into consideration in the decision to give conditional consent to the Governing Body to submit an application for conversion to academy status.

STAGE 1. NOTIFICATION AND STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Governing Body of (Name of School)wishes to consider conversion to academy status and, following consultation with stakeholders and the exercise of due diligence, may formally apply to the Diocesan Trustees for conditional consent to seek conversion.

The date of proposed conversion is:

The timeline for conversion is dependent on receiving Trustees' final unconditional consent prior to completing the DfE processes. This can take up to 6 months from the date of receiving an Academy Order from the DfE.

The Governing Body endorses the following statement of principles in submitting this notification and requesting diocesan support.

1. All Diocesan schools, whether academy or voluntary aided status, will continue to be members of the Diocesan family of schools and will not be left to work in isolation.
2. All Diocesan schools will continue to work for the Common Good and promote community cohesion.
3. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and any member of staff appointed to deputise for the Headteacher, and the Head or Co-ordinator of Religious Education in a Diocesan Catholic school must be a practicing Catholic as determined by the Bishops' Conference Memorandum of Appointment.
4. Religious Education must be taught:
 - a) In line with the Curriculum Directory and any directive given by the Bishop with regard to specific programmes of study; and
 - b) In line with the Bishops' Conference which specified 10% of curriculum time required in Key Stages 1-4 and 5% in Key Stage 5.

5. Religious Worship will be in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.
6. The Governing Body will resolve to sign the Statement of Guarantee annexed to the policy document.
7. Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education and in particular, Relationship and Sex Education must be taught in line with DfE guidance and in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church.
8. Foundation Governors must be in the majority of at least two on the Governing Body of any diocesan Catholic Voluntary Academy.
9. Diocesan schools will be led, managed and governed according to the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church. They will express a preferential option for the poor and disadvantaged, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities and those in public care.
10. Governors and staff will ensure that priority is given to promoting good relationships with homes and parishes of the children.
11. All diocesan schools will be obliged to work collaboratively with diocesan and local families of schools.

The Governing Body understands it will be required to resolve to sign the Statement of Guarantee attached to this document if it submits a formal application for Trustees' conditional consent (Stage 2) to make an application for conversion to academy status.

Signed:

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(Chair of Governors)

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(Headteacher)

Date

Please return this Stage 1 document to Angela Williams at the Cathedral Centre.