



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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Parent Consultation for Multi-Academy Trust
Friday 17th May 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

Will we still have to pay a Governor's fund?

Our governors need to make a decision on that - we have not discussed it yet.

Will the uniform still have the same logo?

There are no plans to change the school uniform and logo.

Do we still get reports?

Yes, as you do now. We report to parents 3 times a year and that will not change. As parents you are likely to see little change to be fair, it will be more at a senior level.

St Joachim's and St Helen's have been through this already you mentioned, what have they learnt that could benefit us? Did their staff transfer with the same contracts and same terms?

Their pensions were protected and they transferred with the same rights and so will we.

Why are unions against MATs?

Unions represent political views. And the current local government views are quite anti academy, we can't all agree. Their concern is for the staff and how to protect them.

What decisions will be transferred and what will St Francis' have control over?

We are employed by St Francis' but we will then be employed by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. The Trust will have the overall responsibility for all of the schools. Some policies are on a Trust level but most policies are particular to St Francis' and are agreed by our local governing body so those will stay the same. For example the

standards and curriculum will stay as it is; but there are other policies on the next level that need to change.

If parents have a concern who do we go to?

I (Head Teacher) am still responsible for St Francis' and so I will address any issues concerning our school just as I do now. That will not change.

Are the catholic secondary schools joining the MAT as well?

The intention is that they join but we are not sure when yet. I can't predict the future but the intention is they join.

Will the Catholic ethos and practises of St Francis' stay the same? Praying, learning, etc?

Of course, we are joining a Catholic MAT so if anything it will be strengthened. Our ethos will not change at all.

Will the parental contributions and fundraisers continue as it is now?

We have a duty to fundraise to help others that are in need; that is a part of Catholic Social teaching. This will not change; we will continue to do so.

Will being in a MAT give us more power to arrange holiday dates and school hours?

We already have that power. As a group of Catholic schools and secondary schools we meet every half term to discuss common issues and in one of those meetings we all agree the holiday dates for the next academic year. That will stay the same.

As for the school hours we are not planning to change them at the moment. We would want to be in coordination with schools around us and also the secondary schools. Being a MAT doesn't change that; we could change hours now if we wanted to.

Will we still be charged for taking children on holidays during term time?

Yes, that is a government initiative and we need to follow it.

Is everyone transferring with you to the MAT? (cleaners, caretaker, etc)

The cleaners and caretakers don't work for us and won't work for the MAT. They work for their companies and we buy in their time, we will continue to do so. However, the caretaker does work for St Francis' and will transfer with everyone else.

There was a deadline for all schools to become an Academy by 2020 so I think we should make that known to parents as we are joining a MAT.

That changed about six months later and schools were no longer expected to become an Academy.

The structure of the MAT looks fair and St Francis' maintains a lot of its powers.

Suppose we all disagree, what would happen?

Foundation Governor: as a governor and a parent at St Francis' I believe we are strengthened by joining the MAT - power in numbers; there are already 2 schools in the MAT and we are joining earlier and that will be better for us.

There are pros and cons but the pros outweigh the cons in my opinion. If we oppose it is detrimental for our school and our children

Foundation Governor: The local authority at the moment can't manage schools the way they used to, that is a fact. I am very happy to be joining Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy at the moment and no one can tell what the future holds.