

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered on a white background within this design.

Proposed Formation of the Holy Cross Multi Academy Company

Informal Parents Consultation Meeting
Thursday 4 October 2018

Multi Academy Company

Formally uniting Catholic
education in a sustainable school
improvement structure

Academies – why?

- ▶ Diocesan Vision - Archbishop Bernard Longley has requested that schools form MACs for the preservation of Catholic Education in the Diocese
- ▶ Maintain Catholic Education's unique identity
- ▶ Preservation of Catholic Education from 3-19
- ▶ Potentially improving outcomes through academisation

What is being proposed?

- ▶ Governing Bodies of
Bishop Ullathorne Secondary Cardinal Newman Secondary
Christ the King Primary St Augustine's Primary
St Elizabeth's Primary St John Vianney Primary
St Thomas More Primary
- ▶ Working together to explore viability of forming a Multi Academy Company together
- ▶ Seeking views of stakeholders
- ▶ Aim to achieve the best for our schools, students, staff and the Catholic community.

What is an Academy?

- ▶ State-funded school which operates independently within the requirements of national codes of practice for state schools.
- ▶ Funding directly from central government rather than through an LA.

What is a Multi-Academy Company?

- ▶ The Diocesan preferred model
- ▶ Group of schools, working together under one board of directors
- ▶ Individual schools will retain their local governing body
- ▶ Retain individual identity whilst striving for the same goal of providing outstanding Catholic education for all of our pupils.

What is a Multi-Academy Company?

- ▶ Academisation that safeguards the unique identity of Catholic schools
- ▶ Keeps all our schools supported and not isolated.
- ▶ The MAC will be set up using the documentation agreed between the Diocese of Birmingham and the Department for Education.
- ▶ The essential principles of the model are that no schools are left behind.
- ▶ No external business sponsorship is involved and there will be no change to the distinctive nature of any of our schools.

Why convert?

Advantages of working more collaboratively within the structured framework of a MAC

- ▶ **Schools** to develop teaching and learning across all Key Stages and improve our children's transition between primary and secondary schools.
- ▶ **Greater** co-operation through staff training together, sharing ideas and introducing best practise across the MAC.
- ▶ **Sharing** of teaching, learning and resources across the schools within the MAC, supporting schools in the teaching of specialist subjects.
- ▶ **Maintaining** stability within the schools through Leadership training for staff.
- ▶ **Develop** and safeguard Catholic education for our pupils from the age of 3 through to 19.
- ▶ **Negotiate** as a group of schools, improved trading terms with our suppliers,

What will change?

Change our perception from *'my school'* to *'our schools'*.

The challenge is: *"How can we share our gifts and talents to ensure that the formative education for our children is 'Outstanding'?"*

Governing Bodies

- ▶ Governance of our schools would remain largely unchanged.
- ▶ An overarching Board of Directors who will set strategy and are responsible for all outcomes, educational as well as financial.
- ▶ A Board will consist of Volunteer Foundation Directors, appointed by the Archbishop.
- ▶ Each school still retains a Local Governing Body similar to the current Governing body. Members of the Local Governing Body having oversight and support for their own school.
- ▶ Schools will retain their unique local identity.
- ▶ Meeting on Wednesday 10 October at 6.00pm for anyone interested in being on BOD

What will change?

- ▶ **Funding:** Currently for maintained schools this is delivered through Local Authorities.
- ▶ Local Authorities also sell other service packages, like financial management, to the schools, HR support.
- ▶ All of this money will come directly to the individual schools, who then have the opportunity to decide where to purchase services from.
- ▶ MAC schools can share resources and services more effectively
- ▶ Government provides one off funding of £25,000 per school covering formalities such as legal costs and new finance systems should they be required

What will not change as a result of conversion?

- ▶ Catholic Ethos will remain and the schools will continue to look and feel the same.
- ▶ Special Educational Needs provision is a statutory requirement for all schools and we will continue to work with parents and the LAs in ensuring this provision is met.
- ▶ Admissions criteria for each school will remain unchanged.
- ▶ School names and uniforms will not change.

Working closely together does not mean changing our individual identities. There is no requirement to 'Brand' the MAC across all schools

What will not change as a result of conversion?

- ▶ The school day - continue as before with no changes to start and finish times.
- ▶ Ofsted will continue to inspect the schools however not until ninth term for new academies.
- ▶ The Diocese will still hold the schools and the MAC to account.
- ▶ The Curriculum - not bound by the prescriptions of the national curriculum, however schools will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ▶ Local partnerships with other schools and the LAs will continue.

What will not change as a result of conversion?

► Finally

- It is important to emphasise the distinctiveness of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's Multi-Academy Company proposal.
- It is underpinned by a commitment to work for the good of all diocesan schools, that none are left in a vulnerable position and our Catholic identity and ethos are maintained and strengthened.
- Furthermore, our schools will maintain their own identities whilst working with others within and beyond our local area.
- The freedoms, with the resources, that Academy status will bring would enable our schools to continue to provide the best possible education for our Catholic community.

How can I make my views known?

- ▶ At any stage during the consultation process you can submit your views in writing to the Headteacher or by email to:

admin@hcmac.co.uk

- ▶ Any views expressed will be captured and included in the final considerations of the Governing Bodies.

**Closing date for comments Friday 19th
October 2018**