



St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School

Harrington Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 1NQ. Tel- (01909)473223

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Head Teacher: **Mrs C Middleton B.Ed. AG Dip**

To develop the whole child; spiritually, mentally and physically in a caring, Christian environment through close links to Church and community.

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

IMPORTANT

Open consultation regarding St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School conversion to Academy status

I am writing to inform you of an important potential development regarding the future of our school. Following careful consideration and extensive discussions, the Governing Body has resolved to explore converting the school to academy status and joining a Multi Academy Trust, with the **Minster Trust for Education (MITRE)**, our preferred option.

MITRE are a local Church of England Multi Academy Trust, and we believe that working with MITRE will support our school moving forwards. Before the Governing Body applies for an academy order there will be a formal period of consultation with the local community, staff, families and children who attend the school. All submissions made during this consultation period will be considered before any further action is taken.

This proposed decision has not been taken lightly and follows thorough investigation into the benefits this partnership could bring to our school community. Mitre has a strong track record of supporting Church of England schools and shares our commitment to maintaining the Christian ethos and values that are so important to St Anne's.

We believe this proposed partnership with Mitre MAT will bring significant benefits to our school, including:

- Enhanced educational opportunities for our pupils
- Greater collaboration with other schools within the trust
- Access to additional resources and expertise
- Strengthened professional development for our staff

I would like to reassure you that:

- The school name, uniform, and day-to-day operations will remain largely unchanged
- Our Christian values and ethos will continue to be at the heart of everything we do
- All current staff will transfer to the new academy with their existing terms and conditions protected
- The high standards of education we provide will be maintained and enhanced

The conversion process typically takes over 18-24 months to complete, during which time we will keep you fully informed of developments.

Consultation

An integral part of the process is consultation with key stakeholders. As such, I write to confirm that the consultation process regarding whether the school's conversion to academy status should take place, will open after the February half term break.



What does the consultation involve?

During the consultation, we will be communicating with children, staff, parents and carers (of current and future pupils), the local community and other stakeholders.

The consultation period begins on **Monday 24th February and ends on Friday 4th April 2025.**

The Consultation Process

There will be a number of opportunities for you to express your views about the proposed move to Academy status, as outlined below:

Public and Open Meeting
Tuesday 18 March 2025 (17.30)
St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School Hall
(Harrington Street, Worksop)

All are welcome to this open meeting.

Pupils will also be kept informed through assemblies and through representatives of the school council.

Further information is available on the school website.

To respond to this consultation on whether the conversion of the school to academy status should take place, representations can only be considered by governors if made in writing to:

*Chair of Governors,
St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School,
Harrington Street,
Worksop,
Notts S80 1NQ*

(Please mark your envelope 'St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School Consultation')

Or by email to: consultations@st-annes.notts.sch.uk

Although individual responses will not be sent, all representations will be considered by Governors.

How can I find out more?

There is more information about Academies on the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

The closing date for representations to be made, and the end of the consultation process, is **Friday 4th April 2025 (12.00pm)**. You can also see a brief Q&A at the end of this letter.

We understand you may have questions about this change. We will be sending out details of the parent information sessions shortly, but in the meantime, please feel free to email any questions to rlilley@st-annes.notts.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support of St Anne's, please be assured that we as a Governing Body will continue to work with you and the staff of the school to ensure *St Anne's* is the best it can be.



We look forward to working with you as we enter this exciting new chapter in our school's history.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R.Lilley
Chair of Governors St Anne's C of E (Aided) Primary School



Questions and Answers about Academy Conversion

What is an Academy?

An Academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the Local Authority and receives its funding direct from Central Government. Previously, Academies have tended to replace schools which have poor results or otherwise needed to improve significantly. However, under the Academies Act 2010, all schools are able to become Academies. We can choose to apply without being supported by another school and without a sponsor from industry or elsewhere, but we must consider carefully whether converting would be in the best interests of our pupils – both present and future.

What are the benefits of being an Academy?

- Academies are free from Local Authority control – this means that Academies have more freedom over how they conduct themselves.
- The ethos and identity of the school would be preserved.
- Academies receive their funding from Central Government.
- Academies have (currently) more freedom over the curriculum taught – this means that, if they wish, academies do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider appropriate for their students.
- Academies that are part of a trust work closely with other academies to develop the curriculum, receive support to improve, and improve the experiences of pupils.
- As part of a trust, we will receive additional support for services such as finance, IT and HR.
- Academies (through a MAT) have access to funding to support capital projects to improve the school buildings.
- As part of a larger group of schools, St Anne's would have the potential to achieve economies of scale and contracts for services that are better value for money.

Other issues regarding becoming an Academy

As an Academy, we would be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety and property maintenance. As mentioned above, Academies receive more funding from Central Government to help them to meet these additional costs, which would allow us to buy services from the very best providers, including the Local Authority.

Will admissions arrangements change?

As an Academy, we would deal with our own admissions but would still be bound by the National Admissions Code. If, in the future, the Academy wished to change its admission arrangements, consultation would be required. As a Church of England voluntary aided school, our current offer of places to students on the grounds of faith will not be affected by academy status.

Will the staff terms and conditions change?

If the school converts to an Academy, all staff currently employed will transfer to the new Academy on their current pay and conditions. Although Academies have more freedom to adapt pay and conditions, the MITRE Board of Trustees is supportive of current pay and conditions.

Will the school change?

Any school is constantly looking at how it can improve, and we are no different. However, in terms of our ethos, values and character, I can assure you that nothing would change. We would not be looking to change our name, uniform or logo. Our school holiday patterns



and school year would remain unaffected. For the pupils and staff, it is unlikely that they would see much, if any, change to their daily routines.

