

Church of England, Diocese of Manchester

Board of Education

Academy Policy on a Page

Over-arching position

The Diocese of Manchester supports a school-led system in which CE schools and academies, whatever their constitutional status, are advised and supported by the small Diocesan Education Department's team.

The Diocese remains neutral about academy applications.

Applications for Academy Orders (ie to become an academy)

The Diocese of Manchester will hear requests from schools, under the Academies Act 2010 Section 3 iv, for consent to apply for an Academy Order. The Diocese will only hear such a request following a resolution of the governing body and the consent to apply from any other foundations (ie usually the PCC).

Applications from Voluntary Aided schools

Consent will only be considered for applications to create, join or form an academy trust (members and directors) with an overall CE majority (ie a VA model).

Applications from Voluntary Controlled/Foundation schools

Consent will only be considered for applications to create, join or form:

1. An academy trust with an overall CE majority; OR
2. An academy trust with 25% CE minority trusteeship (eg a VC model); OR
3. A 'community based' multi-academy trust (MAT) that was prepared to reconstitute to a 25% CE minority trusteeship and foundation guarantees in the Articles of Association.

Imposition of Academy Orders by the Secretary of State

The Education and Adoptions Act 2016, Section 7, places a duty on the Secretary of State to issue an Academy Order when a school is eligible for intervention due to an Ofsted judgement of inadequacy. The above policy will be applied when an Academy Order is issued under section 7. The Diocese will seek to influence existing CE multi-academy trusts to invite such schools to join them; there will be no 'lost sheep'.

Naming of the trust

All CE schools in the Diocese can be instantly recognised as Church foundation schools by their name eg Saint...; Holy...; ...CE school.

The Board's decision and resolution suggests that any CE majority governance trust, when considering a name, uses the following:

- the Saint's name (or Holy Trinity, Family, All Souls, All Saints etc); or
- a Biblical reference or a significant CE figure: historic, national or local; or
- the name of the Trust to be preceded or followed by Church of England (CE)

The name of the town/location, can, of course, be included eg Bolton St Catherine's Academy.

'Straplines' are separate considerations for the Trust.

Costs

Each academy will pay a capped maximum cost of £2,500 for Diocesan advice and £2,500 + VAT for Diocesan legal fees from its receipt of its £25,000 start-up grant from the DfE.

Service Level Agreement

Each academy designated as a school of religious character, Church of England, will pay the Service Level Agreement in accordance with annually agreed terms by the Board in future years.

Appointment of senior leaders

Each academy will invite the Diocese to offer advice on the recruitment and selection of senior school leaders at Head of School level or above.

Primary academy chaplaincy

Primary multi-academy trusts will be encouraged to use their 'top slice' to provide primary school chaplaincy at the guidance proportion of one/1,000 pupils pro rata. Detailed advice on primary school chaplaincy is available from the Diocese wef academic year 2016/17.