



# Rationale for joining Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

October 2017



# Welcome and Prayer

## **Heavenly Father**

Be with us as we meet together.

Guide us as we talk.

Open our ears as we listen

and open our eyes to your vision as we plan.

In Jesus' name,

Amen





# Introductions:

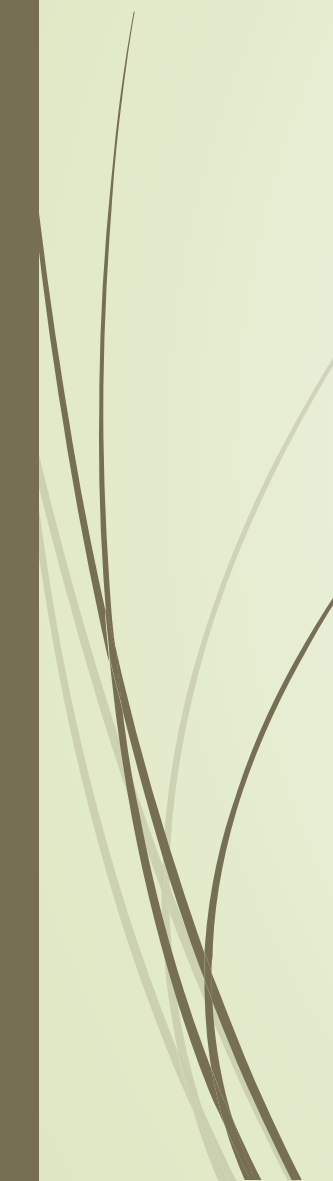
Flavio Vettese – Deputy Director of Education for the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

Teresa Selvey – Chief Executive Officer for the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. Executive Headteacher of St Louis Catholic Academy, Newmarket and St Felix Catholic Primary School, Haverhill.

Clare Gleave – Chair of Governors, St Mary's Catholic Primary School



# Agenda

- Diocesan position
  - Vision for Catholic Education in our Diocese
  - What is a Multi-Academy Trust?
  - Opportunities and advantages
  - What will stay the same?
  - Concerns and thoughts
  - Timeline
  - Questions
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# Diocesan Position

- ▶ A direction from Bishop Alan and Julie O'Connor for schools to form legalised partnerships within the Diocese. Two multi-academy trusts across the Diocese, one of which is Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust – the one we are joining.
- ▶ Some vulnerability in Suffolk schools – protect and support all Catholic schools
- ▶ Certain non-negotiables, including:
  - ▶ Catholic Heads, Deputies and Heads of RE – same as existing
  - ▶ Conditions of service remain the same



# What is a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust?

- A Catholic Multi-Academy trust is simply a number of Catholic Schools who agree to work together with an overarching Trust body.
- A shared vision underpinned by each schools mission statement and aims.
- Each school retains its own local governing body.
- OLWCMAT will initially consist of St Louis, Newmarket; St Felix, Haverhill and St Mary's. 8 other schools from the south of Suffolk / Cambridgeshire will join the MAT by 2020.



# A time for change? A moving landscape

- Schools cannot stand on their own any more
- There is a National expectation that schools will work together and support each other.
- Decline in power and quality of support from LA – they are now brokers and commissioners rather than deliverers – this gives them a weaker capacity to support or provide a strategic lead
- Protect Catholic schools from being forced into becoming members of other sponsored multi-academy trusts which do not share our vision or ethos.
- In an increasingly fragmented system, schools must find alternative ways to secure their viability and effectiveness



# What will stay the same?

- Each school will retain its own Catholic ethos, name, uniform and local policies such as behaviour
- The commitment to pursuing the highest academic and pastoral standards
- Parental representation on local governing bodies
- Admissions – we will still select on the grounds of faith
- Schools will still be required to follow the law and guidance on admissions, SEN and exclusions – like all schools
- All staff will continue to be employed on the same terms and conditions and their pensions are protected
- Schools links with existing networks continue
- OFSTED will still come!





# Opportunities and advantages for our children

- ▶ Academies benefit from greater freedoms to innovate and raise standards, including:
  - ▶ Freedom to direct all our funding to meet the needs of our children. Currently 8% of our funding is topsliced to pay for local authority structures.
  - ▶ The Trust could use its purchase power / economies of scale to ensure the best value (cost and quality) in purchasing goods and services, such as finance and HR, meaning more money to spend on the children
  - ▶ The ability to jointly employ specialist staff directly, eg technicians, language specialists, special needs experts, that we would not be able to afford individually



# More opportunities...

- Freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum
- A seamless learning journey from 3 to 18 – excellence in primary practice can be transferred to secondary and vice versa
- Development of collaboration to stimulate innovative learning strategies, share best practice and co-ordinate focused CPD
- Quality assurance – high level accountability and review of standards in schools to identify and share areas of strength and target specific support where necessary
- Enhanced opportunities for shared projects, events and activities
- Opportunities for professional development and growth of staff – sustainable leadership



# Concerns and thoughts

**Won't this cost a lot of money?**

There are legal fees for conversion but a one-off grant supports this.

**Does becoming a MAT mean schools have less money and therefore need to lose staff?**

No. Schools would have the same level of funding and it would be received directly to the MAT who then distributes it as it is now. It is up to schools to budget for costs accordingly and understand requirements.

**Would schools continue to use the Suffolk Local Authority?**

Yes, if it is best for them, however the LA is reducing services. It is likely that there would be shared HR, for example.



# In conclusion

We are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of working in closer collaboration with other Catholic schools. We envisage that the formation of this MAT will give us fresh impetus to work together and will enable us to:

- ***Protect our Catholic identity***
- ***Strengthen mechanisms for support and challenge***
- ***Improve learning opportunities for pupils***
- ***Promote innovation and creativity***
- ***Widen opportunities for professional development***
- ***Maximise the financial resources available***



# Timeline

Parents were told of the proposal on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October and a consultation meeting arranged – tonight!

The consultation period is now open and will last until 1<sup>st</sup> November, giving staff and parents an opportunity to share their views.

You may have questions now, or something may come to you over the next couple of weeks. Please feel free to come and speak with me if you have any concerns.

The conversion is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, but it will take longer if there are issues to overcome. We will not rush into this.

Any questions?



# Outcomes 2016-17

## Early Years

Year	Pupils	GLD Pupils	GLD%				ATPS			
			Sci	Loc	LA	Nat	Sci	Loc	LA	Nat
2015	29	24	83	68	68	66	34 •	60	34	34
2016	29	25	86	68	70	69	34	61	35	35
2017	30	24	80	72	71	71	36	60	34	35



# Outcomes 2016-17

	Year 1 Phonics				
Year	Pupils	Scl	Loc	LA	Nat
2015	29	90	74	77	77
2016	30	87	79	79	81
2017	30	87	79	80	81



# Outcomes 2016-17

## Key Stage 1

2017		EXS+				GDS			
		ScI	Loc	LA	Nat	ScI	Loc	LA	Nat
Pupils 30	Reading	90	75	74	76	27	23	23	25
	Writing	80	67	66	68	23	14	15	16
	Maths	80	74	74	75	23	18	19	21
	RWM	70	62	61	64	10	9	9	11

# Outcomes 2016-17

## Key Stage 2

<b>2017</b>		School	Locality	LA	National
Pupils 29	Reading Test EXS+	86	70	69	71
	Writing TA EXS+	83	77	74	76
	Maths Test EXS+	100	74	70	75
	RWM EXS+	83	59	57	61
	Reading TA EXS+	90	80	77	79
	Maths TA EXS+	86	76	77	77
	Average Scaled Score Reading	108	104	104	104
	Average Scaled Score Maths	110	104	103	104
	Average Progress Reading	0.8	-0.2	-0.5	0.0
	Average Progress Writing	-0.2	0.3	-0.3	0.0
	Average Progress Maths	3.2	0.1	-1.1	0.0