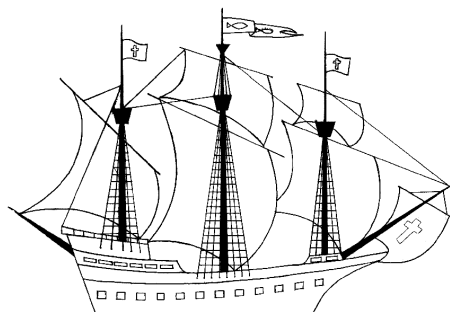

Dawpool C.E (Aided) Primary School

. . . Growing the Fruit of the Spirit

*'The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self Control'
(Galatians 5:22-23)*



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Head Teacher: Mr D. Burrows MA, NPQH

11th January 2022

Introduction

At a recent Governing body meeting, the Diocese of Chester provided information to the Board of Governors on the Diocese's Multi-Academy Trust (Chester Diocesan Academies Trust - CDAT), which is being offered to schools within the Diocese who wish to take advantage of an Academy model.

Rationale

As a consequence of the national picture and continued debate and growth of academies in England, the Board of Governors have decided to now look more closely into whether an academy model would be in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff at Dawpool CE Primary School. We therefore propose to begin a period of consultation between CDAT and all stakeholders to gather more information to decide if academy conversion is the right thing to do. The Governors are keen that Dawpool CE Primary School have full control of how, when and if they go forward with academy status, without pressure from Government departments.

CDAT

As a Church school, we embrace any opportunity to strengthen our links with the Diocese of Chester, which we would do as an academy within the Trust. The Diocese already work closely with Dawpool CE Primary School and have provided high-quality support in areas such as governance, school improvement etc. Becoming an academy would give us increased access to this support from a partner that we know and for whom we share a common Christian ethos. CDAT have received significant interest from other schools across the Diocese who would like to join the Trust, demand has been high especially from those schools that are judged to be Good or Outstanding. Strengthening our partnerships with these schools would have clear benefits for Dawpool CE Primary School and the additional support available through a Trust model would be an advantage

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

of becoming an academy. As one of a number of Church schools currently considering academy status, Governors consider that joining CDAT now will be a positive step for the school.

Advantages of Academy Status

In addition to the advantages mentioned above, as Governors and Headteacher of Dawpool CE Primary School we believe that the opportunity to work with new partners and schools, working together to ensure standards across the Trust are consistently high, is an exciting new proposition. However, we will continue to actively work with all local schools and current partners, ensuring the best of both worlds. CDAT has made it clear that academy status will not change all the things that work so well for our school.

Disadvantages of Academy Status

As an academy, there are a number of additional responsibilities placed on the school in terms of financial management and reporting. It is expected that on a day-to-day basis the pupils and their parents and carers, teachers and staff will not notice the difference if we become an academy. There will however be additional workloads for members of staff in the school office. CDAT recognise the additional pressures and will provide the school with a significant amount of support from specialists who will be able to pick up the majority of this additional work.

Questions and Feedback

We know that the debate around academies has been predominant in recent times and we would like to make sure that the entire school community has had an opportunity to ask questions about what academy status means for Dawpool CE Primary School. We are therefore holding an online meeting whereby we would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about academy status. The meeting will be held as follows:

Virtual Q&A Session Monday 24th January 2022

- Staff Meeting 4.00pm
- Parent / Carer meeting 5:30pm

We have included a feedback form with this letter that we would be grateful if you could submit to us by **Friday 11th February 2022** with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. You can also complete an online survey available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZTQJM66>

You can also leave any paper feedback forms (Appendix A) in the box at the school reception and forms received will be kept completely anonymous.

From **Thursday 13th January**, a dedicated website will be available detailing all the documentation and any future information/feedback or responses and it can be found at <http://www.dawpoolacademyconsultation.co.uk/>

Additional Information

We have included some additional information with this letter:

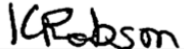
- An outline of the CDAT Vision (information also available at www.cdat.co.uk)

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- A Frequently Asked Questions Document

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Dawpool CE Primary School. We believe that we have a truly wonderful school here and we are committed to ensuring we provide the very best for our school family.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Robson
Chair of Governors



David Burrows
Headteacher

Appendix A: Feedback Form

This form can also be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZTQJM66>

I am: (Please tick)

- ☐ A member of school staff
- ☐ A pupil at the school
- ☐ A parent/carer of a pupil
- ☐ A member of the community
- ☐ A school governor
- ☐ Other (Please specify)

.....

Comments / Questions:

Thank you for your comments!

Please return this form to the School Office (Reception) by Friday 11th February 2022.