



10 May 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The All Saints Schools Trust: Parental Engagement Meetings

Over the last few months the DfE has been looking for a Sponsor for Great Whelnetham CEVC Primary and All Saints Schools Trust has been chosen. It is the preferred Sponsoring Trust of both the DfE and Diocesan Board of Education.

Joining a Trust will enable Great Whelnetham CEVC Primary to benefit from links with an already existing strong partnership for the benefit of the pupils.

All Saints Schools Trust is comprised of the following schools:

- All Saints CE Primary School, Laxfield
- Charsfield CE Primary School
- Dennington CE Primary School
- Fressingfield CE Primary School
- Occold Community Primary School
- St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School, Eye
- Stradbroke CE Primary School
- Wortham Community Primary School

More information about the Trust is available on our website: <https://www.asst.org.uk/>

We want to engage with parents, carers, staff and the wider school community to make sure you know more about All Saints Schools Trust and so that we understand your views.

We will provide information explaining the reasons for and benefits of establishing a Trust as well as information on its governance, leadership and management.

There will be a number of parent meetings (as below) where you will be able to ask any questions you might have and meet Melanie Barrow (CEO) and James Hargrave (Chair of Trustees). Please note that parents are welcome to attend either of the meetings.

Thursday 23 May 2019

2.00pm Parents' afternoon meeting (school hall)
6.00pm Parents' evening meeting (school hall)

We have also listed a few frequently asked questions about the Trust on the back of this letter which may address a few initial questions. You can find more frequently asked questions and also ask us questions on our website at <https://asst.org.uk/engagement>

We want to emphasise that we want to engage with as many parents as possible. This is an exciting time for Great Whelnetham and we are delighted to be working with the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Melanie Barrow
CEO

James Hargrave
Chair of Trustees

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a Multi-Academy Trust?**

A multi-academy trust is a group of schools which is governed through a single set of members and trustees; a number of schools have come together to set up a multi-academy trust with remit and governance decided collectively.

- **Why is All Saints Schools Trust Sponsoring Great Whelnetham CEVCP?**

Great Whelnetham is a Voluntary Controlled Primary school and needed to join a Trust which was eligible to both Sponsor schools and to accommodate VC schools. All Saints Schools Trust has a strong track record of providing high quality education for pupils in eight schools currently. All eight of those schools are either Good or Outstanding. The DfE and Diocese Board of Education have chosen All Saints Schools Trust as the recommended Sponsoring Trust for Great Whelnetham....and All Saints Schools Trust feel that this is a good match and welcome the school to join us.

- **Will my school have a new name?**

The school will become an academy so will no longer retain VC status so there will be a minor name change to reflect this to Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

- **Will you have one uniform across the schools?**

No! All schools keep their existing uniforms. We want the school to retain the individual character and identity it has. We do not want to launch a brand! Great Whelnetham's uniform will not change.

- **What difference will there be day-to-day at the school?**

Differences come at a more senior level- Governance, how the schools are financially run and staff training. There will however be a larger infrastructure of support. Any changes will only occur if a school needs them- for example sharing leadership expertise if a school requires it. This has enormous benefits for continuity of teaching for the children- for example if a Senior staff member was absent or ill in a crisis there would be other Senior Leaders from our Trust to support the school.

- **A local school closed after joining a MAT- will this happen to our school?**

No- the idea is that forming a Trust will future proof the school. Our intention is that the school will be strongly supported and that schools in our Trust will not close.

- **Will Great Whelnetham still have its own events such as Sports Day and Nativity Plays at Christmas?**

Absolutely! They are important parts of each school retaining their own identity and events like these showcase the talents of pupils!

- **How will the Trust save money through joining with other schools?**

Through procurement of resources and sharing of these.

- **Will the Trust look to expand rapidly?**

We would not take on an additional school if we thought it would impair the service that we give our existing schools. The idea is to enhance the provision in the schools we have already and to grow organically. Expansion should only ever happen if it is not going to be detrimental to the schools we already serve and will provide benefits to our pupils and the Trust. We are pleased to be welcoming Great Whelnetham to the Trust and believe we can strengthen the support the school has access to and in turn we look forward to getting to know its school community and making it part of the Trust.

- **So what are the benefits of joining the Trust?**

- Savings of resources.
- A strengthened infrastructure of support for Great Whelnetham.
- Shared expertise in Governance, Leadership and Management.
- Security for the future.
- School improvement
- Expertise to draw upon- the Trust is fortunate to have a range of leadership and teaching expertise from National Leaders of Governance and Education, Local Leaders of Education, Specialist Leaders of Education, Specialist Maths trained teachers and lots of Special Educational Needs expertise.

You can find more frequently asked questions and also ask us questions on our website at <https://asst.org.uk/engagement>