

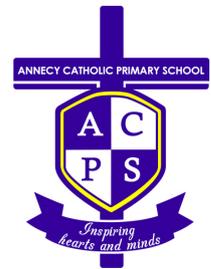
ANNECY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring hearts and minds to grow"

Sutton Avenue, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4LF
T: 01323 894892
F: 01323 894171
E: office@annecy.e-sussex.sch.uk
www.annecycatholicprimaryschool.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Rob Carter
Headteacher: Jane Thompson

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton



25th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation to Convert to Academy Status

You may well be aware that the Government is encouraging all schools to consider converting to Academy status. After careful consideration and preliminary discussion with the Diocese, the School's Interim Executive Board has decided that they wish to explore conversion to Academy status and, in particular, join a Multi Academy Trust the [Bosco Catholic Education Trust](#) which represents all Catholic schools in Sussex. We are writing to consult with staff, parents, local community partners and local parishes to determine whether the school should proceed with conversion and we would like to invite your views on the matter.

Bishop Richard and the diocesan Trustees have a clear vision for Catholic education within Arundel and Brighton. Two cross-phase Catholic MATs will be created across the diocese to serve Sussex and Surrey. Each MAT will comprise primary and secondary schools drawn from a wide range of deaneries. The aim is to cement and to develop both intra- and inter-deanery relationships. The provision of coherent, all through Catholic education from 4-18 is a great strength of the Catholic education system and we must all look forward together. It is Bishop Richard's wish that, over time, Catholic schools from across Sussex will form a cross-phase Catholic MAT accordingly.

Like the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Diocese wishes the Sussex MAT to begin with a small number of schools and to grow over time from a position of strength building on the work of the Bosco Catholic Education Trust which has been started by two schools in West Sussex. To this end, it is recommended that the MAT begins with a limited number of schools drawn from Catholic schools within Sussex, with a view to expanding the cross-phase MAT further as soon as is appropriate. All Catholic schools within Sussex will have the opportunity to be fully involved in shaping the MAT from the outset and to enjoy full membership of the MAT over time.

After careful consideration and preliminary discussion with the Diocese, the Interim Executive Board at Annecy Catholic Primary School has decided that they wish to explore conversion to Academy status and look to join the Bosco Catholic Education Trust, the Catholic Multi-Academy Trust for Sussex.

We are writing to consult with staff, parents, local community partners, parishes and feeder schools to determine whether Annecy should proceed with the first step in this process, which is the conversion to Academy status, and we would very much welcome your views on the matter.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded state schools that are independent of the Local Authority and receive funding directly from Central Government. The School will still be a Catholic School under the authority of the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton and its religious designation will not change.

Why is this being considered?

As a Voluntary Aided School, gaining Academy status would give us the autonomy to continue to develop our school and to continue to develop and achieve high standards. As a Multi Academy Trust, there will be greater opportunities for working more closely with other local Catholic schools and the wider community of schools.

What are the advantages of conversion?

The Government is clear that the greater freedoms enjoyed by Academies are designed to allow schools to develop and to build on individual strengths in response to the needs of the community. We feel that the additional freedoms and flexibilities would enable the Governors to better secure the long-term future of our school.

In addition to this we believe that the formal partnership with Bosco Catholic Education Trust will have a number of benefits for all schools. This includes a more targeted approach to the long-term future of our schools, strengthening our Catholic identity, pooling of resources which will improve teaching and management practice within the schools as well as a greater control of our finances and better management of these for the benefit of children attending the schools.

There are some specific educational benefits as follows:

- Securing strong leadership and governance for the long-term future of the school.
- Training and developing the highest quality of teaching for Ancey Catholic Primary School.
- Supporting staff professional development and leadership opportunities.
- Continuing to focus on outstanding learning and teaching to benefit every child in the school.
- Building on the work we have done so far with St Paul's Catholic College in our partnership.

What are the benefits to the community?

By working together collaboratively, the schools will be better placed to support the work of the parishes within our deanery. The development of the MAT will also give strength to the Catholic voice and viewpoint within local communities and the education sector. By supporting each other in the promotion of gospel values we will develop a future generation that demonstrates these values in their everyday lives.

What are the disadvantages of conversion?

Greater freedoms do bring additional responsibilities including statutory duties as an academy trust company, but the school is confident it can manage these.

Will any changes to the School be made as a result of conversion?

We do not intend to make any significant changes to the school as a result of the conversion, apart from taking advantage of the opportunities outlined above to work more closely with other schools in the MAT. Please be assured that the Catholic character, ethos and values of the school would remain unchanged, should the Academy conversion take place. Indeed, we anticipate that this opportunity to work even more closely together within a supportive Catholic Multi-Academy Trust would further strengthen and support Ancey's ethos and traditions.

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How to take part in the consultation process

At this stage we are not committing the school to conversion to Academy status. We are consulting with everyone associated with our school before the Interim Executive Board meet again to make a final decision.

We would like to know what you think of our plans and are inviting you to take part in this consultation. Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to complete the response form quickly and simply online

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/annecyconsultation>

Should you prefer to complete the form overleaf in hard copy, please ensure that this is returned to the school office. The closing date for the receipt of all forms is 9am on Friday 15 June 2018 after which date the Interim Executive Board will collate views to consider how to proceed.

There will also be an open meeting for you to come and raise any queries you may have or make comments about this on Friday 8th June at 5pm in the school hall. If you are unable to make this meeting but would like to ask any questions or make any comments email chair@annecy.e-sussex.sch.uk

The consultation will close on 15th June 2018. The Interim Executive Board will meet after this date to consider how to proceed. Many thanks in anticipation for your involvement in the consultation process and we look forward to hearing your views on this new and exciting opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsey Diamond

Rob Carter

Chair of Interim Executive Board

Executive Headteacher

Multi-Academy Trust Consultation Response Form

School: Annecy Catholic Primary School

Name of person responding (optional)

Please indicate the reason for your interest in the MAT Consultation:

- Parent/Carer of pupil(s)
- Parent/Carer of prospective future pupil
- Member of School staff
- Local Authority employee: (Name of LA)
- Student
- Former student
- Staff of other local school or college
- Member of local community

Other (please specify)

Please indicate your response by ticking the box next to the appropriate statement below:

- I support the proposal to convert to Academy status and to join Bosco Catholic Education Trust
- I do not support the proposal to convert to Academy status and to join Bosco Catholic Education Trust

Additional comments, if required.

Please comment in the space below on the proposal to convert to Academy status and to join the Catholic education trust and continue over the page if necessary.

An online version of this survey form is available at
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/annecyconsultation>

Thank you for your response.