



Love Compassion Respect Believe

All things are possible if you believe

Mark 9:23

Mottram Church of England
Primary School
Warhill, Mottram, Hyde, SK14 6JL
Telephone - 01457 763368
Email -
admin@mottram.tameside.sch.uk
Website -
www.mottram.tameside.sch.uk
Twitter - @MottramCofE

Interim Headteacher Mr James Malone BA (Hons) QTS
Acting Assistant Headteacher Mrs Amanda Levy BA (Hons) QTS

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ACADEMY CONVERSION

Following a great deal of research, the Governors at Mottram CofE Primary School have taken a decision to take the first step towards applying for academy status and joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT).

In considering becoming an academy, school leaders and governors have met with representatives from the Chester Diocesan Board of Education, from Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT), have talked to other schools who are already part of CDAT and to other local schools. We have looked at other academy trust options available to us, and believe that CDAT would be the best choice for our school. CDAT is the multi-academy trust that was originally established by The Diocesan Board of Education for schools in the Diocese who wish to take advantage of the academy model. We strongly believe this will bring significant benefits for our pupils and our staff.

RATIONALE

The current educational climate is changing, and many schools nationally are choosing to take advantage of academy status: around 55% of pupils in the country now attend academies, and this number continues to grow. Changes to the way funding is distributed have also meant that local authorities now have limited capacity to support schools, and so more and more schools are looking to academy trusts to provide their school improvement support. We feel that this is very much the case locally.

As a consequence of the national and local picture and continued debate and growth of academies in England, the Governors have spent some time looking more closely into whether becoming an academy would be in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff here at Mottram. As one of a number of schools currently considering academy status, our Governors consider that joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) now will be a positive step for the school.





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THE PROPOSAL

The Governing Body at Mottram CofE Primary School believes that the best plan for the school is to become an academy and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (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 our school and have provided high-quality support in areas such as governance, school ethos etc. Becoming an academy would give us increased access to this support from a trusted partner. As part of the CDAT family of schools, we would have access to the Trust's school improvement support and expertise. The Trust has a strong track record in working with schools to help them improve. 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. There is already an active cluster of CDAT schools in Tameside and Stockport – with others looking to join – and it would be beneficial for our school to be able to be part of that group, sharing best practice and learning from each other.

We expect that, if we do confirm our decision for Mottram to convert to academy status and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT), that the formal application and conversion process will take around 9-12 months.

QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Governors are now entering into the consultation phase. We want to make sure that the entire school community has had an opportunity to ask questions about what academy status means for Mottram CofE Primary School. The consultation period runs from Wednesday 22nd January to Friday 14th February.

As part of the consultation, we are holding a meeting for parents to give you the opportunity to find out about academy status. One of CDAT's senior leadership team will also be at the meeting to tell you a little more about the trust and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the school as follows:





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Date of Meeting: Thursday 6th February

- **Staff Meeting** 4.00pm - 5.00pm
- **Parent/Carer meeting** 6.00pm - 7.00pm

We will also be holding a virtual meeting for any parents that are unable to attend in person and this will be held on Tuesday 11th February at 5:30pm

Following the meeting, we are also keen to receive written feedback with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. Feedback needs to be via email and submitted to admin@mottram.tameside.sch.uk and needs to be submitted by Monday 10th February to allow time for questions raised to be answered.

If you would like to know more about CDAT, please look at the trust's website: www.cdat.co.uk or look at the 'Introducing CDAT' document now available on our school website. We will use the website, as well as reminders in newsletters, to keep you up to date with the consultation process.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Mottram CofE 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

Mr J. Malone
Headteacher

Mrs K. Sanderson
Chair of Governors





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Mottram CofE Primary School Feedback Form

Q1. Please confirm the status that best describes you: (Please select one)

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

.....

Q2. Do you support the governors' proposal that Mottram CofE Primary School should convert to academy status and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT)? (Please select one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q3. Any other comments or questions? (Please write in)

Thank you for your comments!

Please return this form to school by **Friday 10th February 2025.**

