



Parent Consultation Meeting 17/10/23

- **What are the blips?**

There have been many positives with any negatives being outweighed by the benefits experienced.

Any small issues have been ironed out.

Some issues have arisen with a change of suppliers and systems but, this would have occurred anyway.

The benefits have been significant

- Support
- Close working
- Sharing of good practice
- No duplication of tasks unnecessarily
- Specialists to call upon
- Catholic leadership team and a shared mission and vision rather than belonging to a Local Authority that caters for all schools

- **Is there anything negative that has impacted pupils or parents?**

Nothing significant to report

- **Concern – what is the extra financial cost?**

There is no additional cost to us. We have not seen a difference

Our school has benefited from being in a group and having greater buying power.

Money that was previously paid to the Local Authority, similarly is paid to the Trust for key services

- **If you are better off, someone has to be worse off**

Not necessarily

Some schools may find that some that they have different charges but there are no additional costs that would not have been paid previously

- **Is there senior management above you – what are the layers?**

Core team that provide HR, Payroll, Finance, Estates support

CEO supported by Director of Education – similar role to advisers in a local authority

Board of Directors

- **If there is a cake sale or if money is raised, does that money go into the trust pot or does it go to school?**

All money raised by the school goes into the school accounts. It is not shared out or sent to a Trust pot.

Likewise, with Budgets, funding & grants specific to school they all remain with school

- **Are you still in control of your own finances?**

No direction on what budget can and cannot be spent on.

Support from The Trust team to set budgets, I line with school priorities.

If there are issues with the budget, team support to address the issues as would happen within a Local Authority

- **How does the building levy work?**

- **Will any bids put in before conversion be safe?**

Any bids submitted already and prior to conversion within the financial year, if successful will be completed within the round of funding.

- **Are you losing control?**

There is no feeling of lack of control, rather a series of support mechanisms and experts so that as a Headteacher we can do the 'day job'.

This includes a team to support

- Payroll
- Estates
- Finance
- School Improvement

Experts are on hand to guide and support if needed and in areas where the school may not have the skills and knowledge.

- **Do you have to ask for maintenance?**

Maintenance for the school continues as previously, organised by school site supervisor/SBM/Headteacher.

Reactive and proactive maintenance as per the maintenance schedule.

The benefit of being in the Trust may be that there are recommended companies/tradesmen for certain jobs or services that are good value, prompt reliable etc.

- **Does the Mat support you being overcharged by tradesman?**

Big jobs/contract across school still need to go out to tender and it always recommended that for jobs/purchases there are three quotes to ensure good value for money.



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Recommendations for jobs and services and particular tradesmen, from the Estates team can be useful to find good value for money products and services. Recommendations are useful and working together can save money with greater buying power.

- **What happens if you want to move away from the trust in the future?**

DfE process which would have to be agreed by the Diocese

Unusual practice

It is important that consultation is a thorough process so that all areas are explored and the right decision is made for the school.

- **At what point will the trust stop growing?**

When all schools in the proposed BEBCMAT family have joined the MAT (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre schools)

These are outlined in the Diocese Academisation strategy.

- **Safeguarding, SEN & LAC funding and decisions made in school?**

All of these decisions are made as previously.

There is support within the Trust if advice and guidance is required

- **Children are well looked after – who looks after the staff?**

Mechanisms in place to look after staff's well-being.

HR package with access to health care support and wellbeing

Trust day to support wellbeing

Well-being of staff is important – development of Trust wellbeing strategy so that employees are supported

Senior leaders access supervision, providing much needed support

- **Will SJV be double inspected due to the fact they are due a visit from OFSTED?**

If school is due an Inspection, they may be inspected prior to conversion.

Once schools convert they become a 'new school' and will normally be inspected in the first 2 years following.

- **Will there be a similar meeting for staff to discuss their points of view and ask questions?**

A meeting has been arranged to chat to staff and take their points of view and address any concerns they may have.



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