



*St. Paul's
C of E
Primary School*

New Street, Gloucester, GL1 5BD
Tel: [01452 521872](tel:01452521872)
Email: admin@st-pauls.gloucs.sch.uk
Web: www.st-pauls.gloucs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs S Matthews

Monday 11th July 2022

Forming a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Consultation Letter for Parents, Carers and Members of the Community.

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,

Research suggests that the best outcomes for children come from groups of schools working together, and in 2021 the Secretary of State for Education set out the government's vision for all individual schools to become part of a family of schools within the structure of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

Continuing to enable our school to provide an excellent education for our children, whilst protecting our school's ethos and identity and retaining its individual qualities and strengths, are the greatest priority for the future of St Paul's. Since 2017, our Governing Body have explored many options for joining Multi Academy Trusts but in order to keep our vision to Make A Difference to Everyone, we strongly believe that we should work together in partnership with a like-minded group of schools to continue to provide a bespoke offer for our children and families.

Over the course of the last academic year, we have been working collectively with Gardners Lane Primary School and Oakwood Primary School in Cheltenham (who, along with St Paul's, are 2 of only 4 Gloucestershire schools to be awarded School of Sanctuary status), offering support for schools in challenging circumstances and giving staff from our schools opportunity to develop their skills by supporting others.

Thinking about the future, the Governing Bodies of St Paul's, Gardners Lane & Oakwood share a view that there is a strong sense of synergy between the values and ambitions of our schools and are therefore seeking to come together to form our own Multi Academy Trust. We anticipate that the Trust will be known as the 'Aspire Foundation Trust', however, we would each keep our own current names and retain much of our independence whilst benefiting from being part of a wider group.

We are keen to involve you in a consultation process as this process proceeds to the next stage of its development. The consultation proposal is to form a new MAT, built and designed together, with a clearly articulated underpinning set of values. The MAT would then look in the future to develop and grow via an associate model where schools would possibly join the MAT when they were able, with support, to match the

values and expectations of the MAT. The underpinning values of St Paul's, Gardners Lane and Oakwood will remain solid and in place over time as the central governance model wouldn't change if and when other schools apply to join the MAT. The joint values and identities of our three founding schools become the core of the new umbrella organisation as all of our schools are very clear that their identity within the local community is very important and something that we do not wish to see diminished. This includes maintaining the Christian Distinctiveness of St Paul's as a Church of England Primary School.

The consultation period will run from Monday 11th July 2022 and will close on Friday 9th September 2022.

There is some general information attached; the vision and values of the proposed Trust; and answers to some 'frequently asked questions'.

Your views and comments on this proposal can be shared here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HVBGZRT>

We look forward to receiving your feedback regarding this proposal.

Yours faithfully,



Margaret Ash
Chair of Governors



Steph Matthews
Headteacher



Jayne Bevan
Co-Headteacher