

Academy Conversion Consultation

Kingsley St John's CofE (VA) Primary School

**Parents and Carers Consultation
15th February 2023**



Vision Statement

'Believe in the light, whilst you have the light, so that you become children of light.' John 12:36

Love; Learn; Aspire; Achieve

At the heart of everything is a personalised approach to each unique individual as part of our Christian community.

The strong family ethos ensures that all children feel valued and grow in self-confidence.

Enthusiastic staff, with high expectations demonstrate care beyond the classroom.

Through God's guidance we encourage his light in each and every child to discover their gifts and potential.

Without exception, we welcome every child into our school and all in school will ensure that each child will flourish.

We all believe that you get one chance in this life and we only work to ensuring that every KSJer can love, can learn, can aspire and can achieve.

We believe in their own light and work tirelessly to help them realise their own light to shine in this world.



Introduction - Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome & Introductions**
- ▶ **What is an academy?**
- ▶ **Reasons for considering to convert to academy status**
- ▶ **Why Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT)?**



What is an academy?

- ▶ Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an Academy Trust.
- ▶ Academies have more autonomy over how they do things.
- ▶ Academies are inspected by Ofsted.
- ▶ Academy Trusts are not-for-profit companies. They employ the staff and have trustees who are responsible for the performance of the academies in the trust.
- ▶ Conversion usually takes around 6 months.



Reasons we are considering academy status

- ▶ Governors have discussed informally for a number of months.
- ▶ Kingsley St John's have always worked closely with Chester Diocese as a family of schools for a long time and appreciate the partnership in building success and development for our pupils and staff.
- ▶ As a Voluntary Aided C E school, joining an academy trust is an important decision.
- ▶ The ethos, vision and trajectory of CDAT is one that KSJ is keen to be a part of. We have the skillset in our staff and the developments for our school from joining are significant.
- ▶ Cheshire West and Chester as a local authority are reducing their capacity, role and service for our school – the support is significantly diminished.
- ▶ As a small school, with a big heart, governors feel that joining CDAT now, is the right step for Kingsley St John's.



Why Convert Now?

- ▶ The government white paper (which is still in circulation, but no longer part of the governments immediate push) initiated our thoughts further.
- ▶ The growth of CDAT and the positive feedback from like minded and similar schools has shown the benefits for our school – as well as the opportunities to lead and share for our staff.
- ▶ Kingsley St John's does not want to miss out on being in the initial schools to build CDAT and shape the future.



Why Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT)?

- ▶ Being part of the trust, closely aligned with Chester Diocese is very important to the governors and leadership of our school. As a CE school, the Christian distinctiveness that underpins our values, approaches, philosophies and ethos is imperative to who we are.
- ▶ The board of trustees are well-known to KSJ, we have worked alongside them for a number of years.
- ▶ CDAT will allow KSJ to maintain its individuality, personality and approaches. It will enhance the support available in all areas – not only curriculum.
- ▶ CDAT's other members are schools very closely aligned to KSJ values.



What will stay the same?

- ▶ No changes to:
 - ▶ The school name
 - ▶ The school day
 - ▶ Curriculum
 - ▶ Uniform
 - ▶ The LGB will continue to provide support and challenge



The Proposal

Proposal is for Kingsley St John's CofE (VA) Primary School to convert to academy status and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) on 1st December 2023



CDAT's Vision

Rooted in Christian values, CDAT is committed to:

- Valuing the uniqueness of every child
- Aspiring to excellence
- Being a nurturing learning community for all

Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

As a Trust, our aim is to ensure that all of our pupils are able to benefit from and enjoy 'life in all its fullness.'



CDAT “Musts”

- ▶ Christian Ethos
- ▶ Collaboration, not Isolation
- ▶ Quality of Education – “stick of rock”
 - ▶ High expectations
 - ▶ Investment in staff development
 - ▶ Train, recruit & retain great staff
 - ▶ Sharing best practice



CDAT's Approach

CDAT doesn't take a corporate approach with its schools – we don't look to change school names/uniforms/badges, nor do we have a 'CDAT curriculum' that we expect all schools to follow, or insist on all schools using the same 'schemes' for maths, phonics and the like.

We recognise that our schools are very different – each serving its own community – and that a 'one size fits all' approach wouldn't work: our aim is to help each school be the very best version of itself that it can be.

Across the Trust there is an enormous amount of expertise and excellent practice. We see the Trust as a thriving learning community where staff and schools work together to help each other to continually improve.



CDAT Family

While our schools all have their own unique identity, they are also all part of the CDAT family of schools. All are church schools within Chester Diocese.

Currently 12 schools within the Trust. Our 12 current schools are in Cheshire, Stockport/Tameside and the Wirral.

1 school has converted on 1st Feb 2023; 2 schools are currently going through the conversion process; and 7 more at the consultation or formal application stage.

Central Team based at Church House in Daresbury but most often seen visiting schools.



Timeline of activity

- ▶ Formal consultation 31st January 2023 to 7th March 2023
- ▶ Consultation report and findings – March 2023
- ▶ Governors to make a decision on whether to proceed
- ▶ Proposed opening date of conversion and joining CDAT – 1st December 2023
- ▶ Regular communication with staff / parents / carers / pupils / community



Any thoughts or questions?

Email: consultation@kingsleystjohns.co.uk

Consultation website: <https://kingsleystjohns.academyconsultation.co.uk>

