

Academy Strategy Update

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Key messages

- Current position for Church of England schools
- The revised Diocesan Academy Strategy
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the DBE and Church MATs
- The new Diocesan Schools map

The DBE's position

- The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) wants to ensure a sustainable future of all of its Church schools and will support school leaders and governing bodies with making well informed, strategic decisions about the future of your Church school
- The DBE is committed to supporting the growth and development of all Church Multi-Academy Trusts within the Diocese of Guildford so that there is enough capacity in the academy sector for every Church school to become an academy
- Working in joint partnership with our Church MATs and our governing bodies, the DBE's ambition is to ensure that every Church school can join a Church MAT which will safeguard its future and protect, maintain and develop its Christian character
- The DBE expects that by 2030, the majority of our Church schools will have joined a Church MAT or have plans in place to become an academy

Current position for Church Schools

- **New Church of England Articles of Association for Church Multi-Academy Trusts which allow VA, VC and Community schools to join the same trust**
- **The Alliance Multi-Academy Trust (TAMAT), The Prospect Trust and the Newark Trust will be adopting these new Articles going forward which provides greater capacity for VA schools who want to academise**
- **The Newark Trust will be re-purposed and become the ‘Learning Partners Church Academy Trust’ (LPCAT). It will continue to be a Church of England MAT which will take Church schools across the Diocese**

Diocesan Academy Strategy

- Under the national MOU between the DFE and the Church of England, every Diocese is required to publish a Diocesan Academy Strategy
- The DBE is currently revising its academy strategy, working with the 5 Church MATs to agree a Diocesan MOU which will set out the agreed principles, protocols and criteria that the DBE will use to give consent for future academy conversions – this will be published at the beginning of the summer term
- Governing bodies need to read the new DBE criteria which sets out the conditions for future Church school academy conversions
- The current strategy is available here: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education-schools/academy-trusts/>

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DBE and our Church MATs

Principles, Protocols & Criteria

Key Principles

- **We will always make our decisions with the best interests of children at heart**
- **We will work together, listening and consulting with all parties before taking decisions**
- We are committed to seeing every Church and Church/Community MAT in the diocese grow and develop – and where necessary, merge with another MAT to achieve long term sustainability
- We are prepared to take difficult decisions and model courageous leadership in the sector
- **We will work together to seek an equitable distribution of Church schools across our Church MATs**
- We are committed to open and transparent communication with our family of Church schools and each other
- **We will support school leaders and governors to make good strategic decisions which is in the best interest of their school and their pupils**
- We will promote the Church of England vision for education and the Diocesan academy strategy

Key Protocols (1)

- The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is the statutory body and religious authority for all Church schools in the Diocese; its consent is required for a Church school to become an academy
- The Regional Director (RD) is required to consult with the DBE on seeking to find a **Church MAT*** which is suitable for a Church school seeking to become an academy or directed to become an academy
- The DBE will engage with all Church MATs to determine the best solution for a Church school and will use the academy criteria published in the Diocesan academy strategy before giving its conditional consent
- Church MATs will work in partnership with the DBE in the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to agree a suitable solution for a Church school

Key Protocols (2)

- **The DDE and Church MAT CEOs will meet together to discuss the difficult cases seeking to identify a Church MAT for a Church school in line with the key principles in the MOU**
- **Governing Bodies of Local Authority maintained Church schools are the legally responsible body for their schools; the DBE does not have power to direct schools to become academies but will use its influence to shape the direction in line with the Diocesan academy strategy**
- **In the event that a Church school is considered vulnerable to closure, the DBE will work with the Local Authority to seek a solution for the school and will not expect a Church MAT to take a Church school which is not financially viable in the long term**

Decision-Making Criteria

- 1. Commitment to the Christian character of the Church school & the legal protections**
- 2. Geography and travel required between schools (including existing federations and partnerships)**
- 3. The pupil journey and transition between infant, junior, primary and secondary schools, sixth form**
- 4. School improvement capability and expertise**
- 5. Trust capacity and existing academy conversions already underway**
- 6. Distribution and type of schools already in the MAT**
- 7. Trust Specialisms**
- 8. Other factors which are bespoke/specific to the school's context**

Diocesan Schools Map

Diocese of Guildford CE & Acade...
Showing all LA CE schools plus CE and non-CE academy schools in Diocese of Guildford
18 views
Last edit was seconds ago

Add layer Share Preview

- St Peters C Of E Junior School
- Crookham C of E Aided Infan...
- All Saints Junior School
- Rowledge C Of E School
- Grayshott Church of England...
- St Mary's C of E Infant School
- Merrow CofE Controlled Infa...
- Shere C Of E Infant & Nurser...
- Send CofE Primary School
- Pewley Down Infant School
- Holy Trinity Junior School
- Clandon C of E Primary School

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<https://bit.ly/311dS8x>

