

St Matthew's C of E Primary School



Proposed conversion of St Matthew's CE Primary School to an Academy and to join Cidari, the Blackburn Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

From the School Governors:

First of all, the School Governors would like to thank everyone who participated in the consultation process for their time and contributions.

Following this extended period of consultation, and taking into consideration the feedback from a range of interested groups, the Governors met on the evening of Monday 29th November to consider all the information and feedback they had received, together with their own research. Taking all of this important information into consideration, they made their final decision to now proceed with conversion to an Academy and to join Cidari, the Blackburn Diocesan Multi Academy Trust. The Governors firmly believe that joining the Trust will enable the school to build on the improvements made in recent times and continue the journey working with, and for, our community to deliver strong teaching and learning for the benefit of our children.

Cidari's strong track record of maintaining an Academy's place in the local community and supporting the leadership to continue their school improvement plans, backed up by a local governance committee, was a major factor in their decision making. Cidari is recognised by the major unions as a good employer with preservation of terms and conditions for all staff; no changes can be made without the negotiated agreement of the unions.

We will now proceed to the next step on the conversion process so that we can begin to enjoy the benefits that conversion will bring for the school and community.

From Mr P Ashworth, CEO of Cidari MAT:

We welcome the decision of the Local Governing Body to join Cidari Multi Academy Trust. St Matthew's will join a family of 10 Academies focused on achieving the best outcomes and life chances for their 3000 children and wider communities. Cidari has a clear record of school improvement, over 8 consecutive Good or better Ofsted inspections which all recognise the important role that strong, local governance has to play in supporting the Headteacher and their team to focus on delivering excellent education.

As a Church of England Trust fully committed to upholding the national terms and conditions (or better) for our employees, we look forward to the skills, knowledge and experience that the staff at St Matthew's can bring to our 420+ colleagues, and in turn the collaboration, development and innovation opportunities that being part of the Cidari family can bring to them.

All of our Academies have their own distinctiveness. St Matthew's is no different. Its individuality, values, vision, ethos and community links will not only be protected but nurtured and grown. As we now move to the formal stage of St Matthew's becoming a member of our trust, we look forward to building direct and positive relationships with staff, parents, the community, and other community stakeholders. Our focus now must be to collegiately work through the process with openness, integrity, respect, and the shared values we all have; to improve the opportunities for the children at this wonderful school, and begin the next exciting stage of its improvement journey.