

Walmsley CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Joanna Atherton

Consultation on joining a Multi-Academy Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know that the School Governing Board have been considering the potential benefits of Walmsley C of E School becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust.

Governors recognise the potential benefits to being part of Multi-Academy Trust and see the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas and resources a part of a larger organisation as a way of supporting school improvement, enhancing teaching and learning opportunities, and also to provide greater efficiencies in the allocation of resources. A key consideration for us as we work through this process is that as a school we are able to retain our autonomy, sense of family and vision. We want to reassure you that your children, and what is best for them and the school, will remain central to our decisions.

It has therefore been agreed that the possibility for Walmsley to join a Multi-Academy Trust should be carefully considered and Governors and staff have explored a number of options. Following a review of these options, a decision has been made to further explore the opportunity of joining The Bishop Fraser Trust. [The Bishop Fraser Trust - Home](#)

The Bishop Fraser Trust is a Church of England Multi-Academy Trust which has primary, secondary and all-through schools amongst their schools, including Canon Slade; a school that has been attended by many of Walmsley former pupils which we already have close links with.

We would like to stress that at this stage, no formal decision has been made to join the Bishop Fraser Trust and as part of the next stage of the process, consultation will take place with staff, the local community, parents and carers of pupils to allow everyone to consider the proposals and to provide the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns they may have.

This consultation process will run between Monday, 27th January 2025, and Friday, 14th February 2025 during which time we welcome your comments, questions and feedback.

To facilitate this consultation, a webpage has been created on the school website which includes a FAQ document that should address some commonly asked questions parents may have when a school is considering joining a Multi-Academy Trust. Details of how to input into the consultation exercise are provided on this webpage - [MAT Consultation | Walmsley C.E. Primary School](#)



Resilience



Trust



Aspiration



Hope



Respect



Love

'Growing as a family to flourish in God's Love'

Your Views

Your views are extremely important to us. Governors would welcome any comments on the proposals, and are more than happy to consider any questions or concerns that you may have. An email address has been specifically created to facilitate this consultation: mat.engagement@walmsley.bolton.sch.uk

If you are contacting us by email please use the heading "MAT engagement". Alternatively, please feel free to set out your views by letter to the school office marked "MAT engagement"

The Governing Board would be grateful if you could please provide any responses to this consultation by **Friday 14th February** after which time all comments will be considered.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Joanna Atherton
Headteacher



Mr Russell Dyson
Chair of Governors