



27 June 2016



## Conversion to Academy Status: A consultation

Dear Friend of Bury CE High School,

The prime minister has made it clear that the Government have the intention to make as many schools as possible in England into Academies, and to achieve a largely academy driven educational system in the life of this Parliament. Bury Local Authority are in the process of asking their Secondary schools to consider how they might respond to this expectation.

There are currently two ways that a school can become an Academy. The first is that it fails to meet the government expectations and is forced to become an Academy with a sponsor decided by the Secretary of State for Education. The second is for Good and Outstanding schools to choose to become Academies, choosing their own structure. It is in this second category that Bury CE High School currently sits.

Bury CE High School was founded in 1748 as the Charity School in Bury, intended to provide education with a Christian world view to the poor of Bury. Its subsequent name changes reflect its growth and popularity as it became the Parish School for all the children in the Parish of Bury and then the Church Central School, taking pupils from further afield around Bury. In 1966, it moved to its current site and became the Bury CE High School that we know today, drawing pupils from Bury Deanery and the Deaneries of Prestwich and Whitefield, Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton, as well as from further away across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Throughout the 268 years of the history of the school, it has always remained true to its Anglican roots and its Christian foundation. This is the case today and the Governors of the school wish to protect this foundation into the future through converting to become an Academy.

Over the past three years, Bury CE High School Governors have been monitoring closely the Academies programme and its development. As a 'Good' school, we are able to choose to convert to become an academy and to have a degree of control over that process. Our aim is to build on excellence and our strong Christian values as a Church of England school so that every child in our school has the opportunity to thrive. Alongside this, we want to maintain the name and tradition of the school, our uniform and our admission policy.

Our purposes in seeking this development are:

- ✓ To support the promotion and development of further high quality education in a Christian context in Bury;
- ✓ To seek to continue working together with and supporting others;
- ✓ To secure the Christian foundation of our school for the future;
- ✓ To explore the possibilities of Building projects to develop the school for the future;
- ✓ To continue to develop our links as part of the Bury family of schools;

SENIOR DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Mr I K Jackson MA (Cantab)

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS: Mrs T Astley BEd (Hons) Miss M Brothers BA (Hons) Mrs H Martin BA (Hons)

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS: Mrs E Watson BSc (Hons)

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / DIRECTOR OF ENGLISH: Mrs L Brannon-Barnett BA (Hons)





- ✓ To continue to develop excellent teacher training through our various teaching school partnerships;
- ✓ To grow the leaders of the future for school, Church and society.



Conversion to Academy status is something that many secondary schools have gone through successfully. We are writing to assure you, therefore, that we will take throughout an 'as is' approach. That is, we shall seek to retain the current nature of our school as far as this is appropriate and allowed by the conversion process. We will, however, take as much advantage of the new scheme to enrich the work that we have been able to do as an individual school. We are open to the possibility of working with other CE schools so, should you be associated with another CE school that is looking at Academy status, please feel free to contact us about a possible partnership.



The Governors of the school have met and have voted to proceed to academy status following presentations and advice from a number of Head Teachers' of CE high schools' who have made this particular journey and the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education. This step was followed by approaching the appointing Foundation bodies who appoint Governors to our governing body for their support. This has been forthcoming and we have presented our proposal to the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education to obtain their permission to apply to the Department for Education. This permission has been given and we are now at the stage of requesting that the Regional School's Commissioner gives us permission to apply for an academy order.



At this point it is now time for the whole school community to be able to have its say at the start of this process. We will be giving the opportunity for formal consultation to friends of our school, seeking your views on these matters, alongside seeking the views of parents/carers, staff, pupils, local MPs, Unions, the local community and those associated with the school.



Should you wish to take part in the consultation, or if there are any questions you wish to ask, then you could:

- Write a letter to the Chair of Governors of the school, Mr John Allen MBE, c/o the Clerk to the Governors, Bury CE High School, Haslam Brow, Bury, BL9 0TS

Or

- Email your comments or questions through to [offman@burychurch.bury.sch.uk](mailto:offman@burychurch.bury.sch.uk)



The schools web site will be kept up to date with information regarding the conversion and how it is progressing. We will seek to put the answers to questions, without identifying the questioner, on the web site so that you can be fully informed about what the change will mean in practical terms.



The consultation runs from the Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June until the end of term, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016. We are seeking to take our time so that we can ensure that the whole process is properly done and that the establishment of any new arrangements is strong from the outset.



Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

*John H Allen*

*C Watson*

John H Allen MBE  
Chair of Governors

Rev'd C Watson  
Headteacher

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