

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**To parents/carers, staff and community stakeholders of Halewood Church of  
England Primary School**

**CONSULTATION**

**Conversion to academy status as a member of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST)**

On 22 June 2016, Halewood Church of England Primary School received its Academy Order and, along with Cronton Church of England Primary School, incorporated Create Church of England Multi-Academy Trust (Create) on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Both schools were due to convert as part of Create on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

In November 2016, the Diocese Board of Education consulted with Church of England schools regarding whether the Diocese should take a lead and form its own Multi-Academy Trust. The results of the consultation showed that 80% of those schools that responded would be interested in exploring the possibility of joining a Diocesan led MAT.

The Governing Body has therefore taken the decision to pursue conversion to academy status as a member of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST). As part of the statutory process Governors wish to consult with parents/carers, staff and community stakeholders to gather views about this change of direction and would be very grateful to hear your views.

Governors strongly believe that joining the LDST will secure the school's Christian foundation and ethos which is of paramount importance to both our school and the Diocese of Liverpool. We will remain part of the Church's Family of Schools whilst keeping our local autonomy. Joining the LDST will allow Halewood Church of England Primary School to have a greater say in shaping its own future and ensure we maintain our high standards.

**Continuity**

As an Academy, Halewood Church of England Primary School will be part of the LDST, a charitable company, but the school will remain the same in terms of its name, ethos, vision, values and distinctive Christian character, continuing to work very closely with the Diocese of Liverpool and other trusted partners.

There are no plans, for example, to change the school day, uniform, school terms or to change the working terms, conditions and pensions for staff.

We want to build on our existing strengths and ensure that we continue to improve the educational provision for our school and the local community.

Our school will retain its Governing Body and we do not expect the structure of the group to change significantly as a result of academy conversion. The LDST will have a Board of Directors who have the overall legal responsibility for all schools within its Trust and who will provide support and challenge for our Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. As an Academy, Halewood Church of England Primary School would retain the same admission criteria as currently. The school will continue to be a Church of England school and serve the children and families within our community.

### **What happens next?**

The Governors are interested to hear your views regarding Halewood Church of England Primary School becoming a member of LDST. You may forward your views in writing to the Chair of Governors, marking your envelope "Academy Consultation" or by emailing the school at [halewoodce@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:halewoodce@knowsley.gov.uk). We have uploaded our previous consultation document and responses to our website ([www.halewoodcofe.co.uk](http://www.halewoodcofe.co.uk)) much of which will answer questions you may have.

The consultation period ends 23rd April 2017. Following this the Governing Body will meet again to consider your views and the outcome of the consultation will be published on the school's website.

Yours sincerely

Mr Tom Beesley MBE

Chair of Governors