

# The Catholic Schools of Sutton Coldfield within the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Bishop Walsh, Holy Cross, St Joseph's and St. Nicholas.

Parental Information Briefing about the possible formation of a  
Multi Academy Company (MAC), November 21st 2012.

## Welcome to Parents



# Why change?

- **Local Authority support is dwindling in terms of quality and quantity**
- **Local Authority funding stream may be at risk**
- **Archdiocese of Birmingham has formulated a multi academy model in the interests of the 'common good'**
- **Additional funds of 8% in addition to our current budgets so primary school approximately £68,000 and secondary £400,000 pa available through direct funding**
- **Governors and school management need to protect the schools and build for the future**
- **Allows the schools to grow and develop and maintain standards**
- **By opting for more independence we believe that we will be better able to serve the needs of our pupils in the future.**

# **We'd like to briefly explain 4 key questions**

- **What is a MAC?**
- **What would be the main benefits of the 4 schools becoming a multi academy?**
- **What would change?**
- **What would stay the same?**

# What is a MAC?

- **What is a Multi-Academy Company?** -MAC consists of individual academies run by a Board of Directors. [BofD]
- **Why will the Trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham believe in MAC model** -Diocese needs to consider the longevity of VA schools -Bishop appoints BofD for Multi-Academy Company model
- **Current collaboration of four Sutton Catholic Schools:**
  - Long standing links and transition primary to secondary.
  - Strong relationships, learning from each other, building trust and shared vision in changing landscape.
  - Understand need for change to strengthen our provision and common good to secure Catholic education.
- **Governance**
  - The principles of governance are the same in academies as in maintained schools, but the governing body has greater autonomy.
  - MAC is made up of Board of Directors is made:14 Board of Directors X8 Foundation Directors, four of CofG, plus 4 other Foundation Directors- **criteria**, plus x2 **elected** Staff, x2 **elected** Parents, x2 **elected** Principals
- **Board of Directors**
  - Directors have the rights/freedoms to set the strategic vision and drive improvement across all the academies.
  - The legal and strategic powers of the Board of Directors can be used to break down barriers at a very local level for collaborative practice easy to achieve.
  - The Directors delegate some operational control to individual academy to **Academy Committees** though a Scheme of Delegation made up of Academy Representatives.
- **Funding**
  - Greater freedom over how they use their budgets to best benefit their students.
- **Accountability**
  - Each Principal via committee of principals will feedback to BofD,
  - Each academy held to account to Academy Committee local level.
  - All Ofsted and RE Section 48 inspections separately.

# What would be the main benefits of the 4 schools becoming a multi academy?

- **Fulfilling our Catholic Mission and strengthening the Catholic Community**

- Strengthen the Catholic life of children and families in Sutton Coldfield

- Provide support for Catholic Education outside Sutton Coldfield and the wider community

- **Teaching, Learning and professional development**

- To secure outstanding attainment and progress for our children in all aspects of development – the whole child.

- Taking and sharing the best practice from each school.

- An increase in peer to peer support

- Strengthening and sharing of specialist knowledge and expertise

- **Leadership and Management**

- Strengthen our autonomy and power to innovate

- Strategic formal commitment – working together will be structured and binding and not optional

- Provide support and challenge

- Multi academy status helps us to organise the support we need which would otherwise have been provided by LA (no longer available).

- It will ensure high attainment and achievement is sustained and where needed and possible improved.

- **Economies of scale/ deployment of resources**

- Support for our schools where areas of development identified to secure rapid progress in self improvement and possibly if there are temporary staffing difficulties

- To plan and organise support beyond our schools for weaker local Catholic schools to secure self improvement and DfE expectations

# What would change?

- Freedom from local authority control
- Freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum
- The ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.
- The ability to set own pay and conditions for staff
- Shared overall Governance 'Board of Directors' (B of D) made up from Directors with representation from each school different stakeholders - CofG, plus possible elected Directors
- Appointments of HT and DHT by B of D
- Shared long term vision, additional funding/ surpluses will be allocated by B of D after the first year.
- Strategic formal commitment – working together will be structured and binding.
- Strategic appointments could be made to work across all schools
  - i.e. Y5 to Y8 teaching strategies. MFL teaching across KS2,3,4*
- Developing new approaches to: accountability; collaborative practice; distributed and collective leadership; team-work; use of budgets; and deployment of resources, human, financial and material; etc.
- Ofsted judgements frozen. Schools have no Ofsted category status until their next visit.
  - (slate wiped clean)*
- Strength in resources when offering outreach to support others

# What would stay the same?

(M=Mission, A = Academics, C=Character)

- Each school would retain its Catholic Ethos, mission, name and character.
- High academic standards.
- Each governing body (academy committee) will continue to be responsible for its own school. Parents will be directly elected to both Academy Committees and the Board of Directors.
- In first year, funding for each school to be the same
- All staff continue to be employed on same terms and conditions. (TUPE).
- Pensions will be protected and will continue in the future in accordance with other prevailing developments.
- Links with existing networks to be retained by individual schools.
- OfSTED – will still come!
- Unfortunately the same HEADTEACHER!

# **We've hopefully explained 4 key questions**

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**We would like to hear your views.  
Any Questions?**

