

**ST BERTELINE'S COFE PRIMARY CONSULTATION MEETING 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 -  
PARENTS/CARERS/GOVERNORS**

- Q. What is the maximum number of schools the Trust will take?
- A. 30 - 35 schools, 6 clusters working together. They would envisage 32-33. Maximum 35.
- Q. How much better off (funding wise) would St Bert's be if we joined CDAT as opposed to now?
- A. School funding will be exactly the same as what we get from the LA now. There is no extra funding for academy schools. The academy will take some funding but no school will be worse off. Schools may see some savings due to collaborative purchasing.
- Q. How do you proportion funding?
- A. St Bert's will have an individual budget as they do now. The trust will not prop up schools within the trust using other schools' budget. Funding remains based on numbers of pupils.
- Q. What about quality of teaching, and how do the trust maintain ratios.
- A. Classes have qualified teachers and teaching assistants. Quality of education and therefore quality teaching is number '1' priority - cutting staff really doesn't help the children or the school. There will be many opportunities to upskill staff. Staffing ratios will remain the same as this is a legal requirement.
- Q. (Governor asked) With regards to SEND, he has concerns that the LA will be left dealing with special educational needs on reduced funding?
- A. At the moment the trust has a higher proportion of SEND in comparison to national figures. The trust has a SENDCo lead who works very well with all SENDCo's in the trust. All SENDCo's are extremely well supported via networking and sharing expertise.

## CONSULTATION MEETING 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 - STAFF

- Q. Is the Government funding for academy school based on number of pupils in school?
- A. Yes, as usual it will be calculated using the October census.
- Q. Will there be a limit on the amount of schools in the Trust?
- A. At the moment there are 13 schools in the trust and another one shortly joining. They envisage around 30-35 schools total in the trust. If they were at the maximum and another school would like to join in the area, they would probably take them on. CDAT are also looking at developing 'cluster models.
- Q. How many Trustees oversee the Trust?
- A. 10 + Trustees. The Trustees come from a range of backgrounds.
- Q. Is the Trust just for primary schools.
- A. Yes, church primary schools.
- Q. With regards to TUPE - How does it work for casual staff. Do the Trust use their own staffing agencies?
- A. No, the trust doesn't use their own agency staff. Member schools can continue to use the agencies that they are familiar with and that are able to support their requirements.

### Staff Comments Received Via Consultation Email

- Comment: I will fully support anything our Governors and Headteacher decide. There are just worries with regards to pay, career progression and added workload.
- A. Staff currently employed by the Governing Body will transfer via the TUPE process with same terms, conditions and pay. There are opportunities for career progression both within CDAT and outside, and we pride ourselves as a trust on not creating unnecessary work.

Comment: The reason for my response is that I have previously experienced working in a school that has converted to academy status. Unfortunately this was a negative experience, as despite having my TA contract TUPEd across, I was then (along with the other TA's) made redundant and told to re-apply for my post on less pay with more working hours. It was at this point that I left and secured a post at St Bert's. I am therefore hesitant to go through this process again. I would appreciate some reassurance that this won't happen.

A. I can reassure you that this sort of thing has never happened in CDAT (in 10 years and 13 schools) and there are no plans to work like this going forward either. CDAT is a trust that is built on Christian values - which include treating people as we'd like to be treated ourselves. This underpins what we do and how we do things.

Q. How will this affect Kitchen Staff?

A. The schools who join CDAT usually continue with their catering contracts.