



November 2017

Dear Parents/carers and members of the local community

RE: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE EMBRACE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

As many of you will remember, in 2012 our school converted to become an academy. Governors believe that the school has benefited from the conversion and as we had hoped, academy status is enabling us to continue to develop and improve.

The government continues to develop the academies programme on the basis that academies will group together in multi academy trusts. This letter seeks your views on a proposal that our school should now join with others in the local area to establish the Embrace Multi Academy Trust. More information about the proposed trust is attached.

Schools across the district have a strong record of accomplishment in working together and building on collective strengths to ensure that all children have access to the very best possible education. Our governors believe that becoming part of this multi academy trust will strengthen those partnerships and provide enhanced opportunities for schools to collaborate to develop truly great teaching and learning and to ensure best value for money. School leaders and governors are meeting together to help shape this new trust. As the proposed group includes both Church of England and community schools, we are working closely with the Diocese of Leicester and will involve both the Local Authority and the Department for Education, as our proposals develop.

Parents/carers and children are unlikely to notice any difference to their day-to-day experience of school life. For example, we will still be called Brockington College; the school uniform will not change; we will not change term dates nor the school's admissions policies. All children and members of staff will continue to be part of the school as they are now. We trust that you will continue to give the governors and the staff your support.

We are all very excited about the prospect of creating a multi academy trust that is locally based and run by leaders who have the best interests of local children and their families in mind.

More information about what this means for our school and for your children is attached to this letter and we will be hosting a meeting for parents/carers at Brockington College on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 7 pm. If you would like to give your opinions on this proposal, please complete the online survey via this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EmbraceMAT> or return the attached response form to the school in a sealed envelope marked 'Embrace MAT Proposal'.

We will inform you of the outcome of the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Southall
Principal



EMBRACE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Learning for Life

Initial Membership of the Embrace Multi Academy Trust

The Embrace Multi Academy Trust is proposed as a multi academy trust with the following initial members:

Arnesby Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 3–11 age range.

Brockington College (Church of England Academy). 11-16 age range.

Croft Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 2–11 age range.

Huncote Community Primary School Academy Trust. 4 – 11 age range.

Manorfield Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 4–11 age range.

Sherrier Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 4–11 age range.

St Peter's Church of England (aided) Primary School (voluntary aided). 4–11 age range.

Two schools are currently academies and the other schools are proposing to convert to academy status, as all academies form the multi academy trust together.

Draft Vision for Embrace Multi Academy Trust

The Embrace Multi Academy Trust, supported by the Diocese of Leicester, will provide the highest educational, spiritual, moral and emotional experiences across all schools and colleges. Our clear aims, clarity of purpose and an ethos shared by all stakeholders will ensure that children receive the highest possible standard of education.

A non-negotiable feature of Embrace Multi Academy Trust is that schools within the MAT will preserve their own individual values and ethos. This will allow both Church of England and non-denominational schools their own specific vision, as agreed by their local governing body. Further information regarding the visions of individual academies within the MAT, can be seen on individual websites.

The Trust will strive for excellence in all areas, but will pay particular attention to pupil attainment and progress; the safety and wellbeing of pupils; outstanding teaching and high quality Leadership and Management.

Members of staff, in consultation with parents, will set the highest possible expectations to ensure that all pupils will achieve their full potential regardless of their social and economic background. Teachers will work collaboratively with colleagues in their own and other schools in the Trust to ensure the curriculum taught to children is broad and balanced, relevant and inspirational, engaging and fun. Children within the Trust will be fully prepared for life in a modern and ever-changing world.

As a Trust we are fully committed to ensuring that, members of staff receive the highest quality continual professional development to give them the skills and resources to deliver the best quality teaching and learning for the young people in our care.

Draft Ethos for Embrace Multi Academy Trust

Children and Young People are at the very heart of our work together. High aspirations will be set, challenges made, support provided and respect for all others will be an expectation. Outstanding teaching and excellent pastoral support will be the watchwords by which we stand.

Excellence in all we do

Motivating and inspiring young people

Broad and balanced Curriculum

Resilience in a changing world

Aspirations for all

Clarity of purpose

Ensuring continuing school improvement

Draft Organisation of Embrace Multi Academy Trust

Our inclusive and supportive ethos can only be achieved if there is excellent Leadership and Management across the whole Trust. A Board of Trustees is responsible for the running of the Trust and is fully supported and informed by the Local Governing Boards of our individual schools. The local Governing Boards are mandated by the Trustees and are responsible for monitoring and supporting the work within their own schools. Head teachers and Chairs of Governors advise trustees in their work, as representatives of the local governing boards, whilst the Chief Executive Officer alongside the Chief Financial Officer, manage the day to day running of the Trust.

The Diocese of Leicester is a core partner so that Church schools can be part of the Trust. However, the Trust will be open to Community and Church schools and each school's existing character and ethos will continue unchanged within the Trust. **There is no intention that any school will change its individual character, ethos or values.**

The Diocese will have a role in the governance of the Trust, mainly by appointing 3 of the 5 members, which are similar to shareholders. The members will appoint the Trustees of the company and these will be people with the skills and experience to support the development and growth of the Trust.

Strong and efficient leadership supported by efficient financial support, allows our teachers to do what they do best, teach our children!

The targets we set ourselves and our pupils are high and by working together to pool our resources and expertise within a shared commitment to excellence, we are confident that Embrace Multi Academy Trust provides the very best platform for the ongoing education of our children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Academy?

Academies are state maintained schools free to all children. They are run separately from the local authority and have an agreement with the Government, which provides funding directly to the Academy Trust. They follow the same rules as all other state-funded schools in respect of admissions, pupils with Special Educational Needs and exclusions. Academies are inspected by Ofsted.

What is a Multi Academy Trust?

A Multi Academy Trust is a company established to be responsible for a number of Academies. Each Academy remains as a separate school, with its own Local Governing Body, but the governors are responsible to a board of directors established for the Trust as a whole. This model is becoming more common, particularly as more primary schools seek academy status.

Within multi academy trusts each school maintains its own identity and ethos. Although the Diocese of Leicester will appoint the majority of members for the Embrace Multi Academy Trust, community schools within the trust have their community ethos protected in the legal agreements that establish the Trust.

Who will form the local governing body for each academy?

The local governing body will continue to include two elected parents and one/two elected member(s) of staff, as well as the head teacher. The first local governing body will comprise all existing governors. The Directors of Embrace Multi Academy Trust will be able to appoint governors to individual academies, primarily for the skills that they bring.

Will children attending a primary school in the Trust have priority for admission to a secondary school in the Trust?

No. Schools within the Trust will retain their existing admissions policies and will generally continue to operate open admissions to serve their local communities.

How can I find out more?

More information on Academy status and on multi academy trusts is available on the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk.

We are holding a meeting in school on Tuesday 14 November at 7pm, where we will say a little more about what this proposal means for our school. All parents, carers and members of the local community are welcome to come along to find out more and to ask questions.

How can I make my views known?

Please do let us know what you think about the proposal to establish the Embrace Multi Academy Trust and whether our school should join it by completing the online survey via this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EmbraceMAT> or by returning the attached response form to the school in a sealed envelope marked 'Embrace MAT Proposal'. There is also the opportunity to ask any further questions that you may have.

All comments and questions should be received by Friday 8 December 2017.

The Embrace Multi Academy Trust
Consultation Response Form

Thank you for your interest in the proposal to establish the Embrace Multi Academy Trust and for your school to join the Trust. Maintained schools will convert to academy status at the same time. Having considered the information available, please say whether you agree that your school should move forward in this way, using the following scale:

Agree

Unsure

Disagree

Please add any comments or questions here, including if there are elements of our current provision that you believe should be retained.

Please continue overleaf and add an extra sheet if necessary

Please indicate here which school you are associated with and tick the box that best describes your connection to the school. A postcode is helpful and if you would like a specific answer to a question, please also give your name.

School name:

Parent/carer

Staff member

Wider community

Other

Postcode

Name (optional):

Please return this form by Friday 8 December, 2017 in hard copy to the school in an envelope marked 'Embrace MAT Proposal'. You can also complete the form on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EmbraceMAT>