

Appendix 8 – Rationale for becoming an academy and joining Dales Academies Trust

Rationale for the becoming an Academy:

Our LA is becoming less able to offer key support due to the number of schools in Stockton that are converting to academies. The reduction of funding for the LA is beginning to have an impact on their ability to provide key services and support. Going forward the depth and availability of quality support that the LA will be able to provide will greatly reduce.

Rationale for joining Dales Academies Trust:

The school are looking to join an outward looking church school's academy trust. Our priority has been to find a Church of England Academy Trust in order to maintain and further develop our distinctive church school ethos.

The Dales Academies Trust has been created by Church of England schools from both the Leeds and York Diocese. This means that the Trust has the benefit of advice and support from two large diocese. A Diocesan School Improvement Advisor has been allocated to oversee and support all the schools in the Trust. We want to work with other church schools to become an outstanding Church of England School in terms of SIAMs. The opportunities to share good practice and collaborate with a group of other Church of England schools will assist with achieving this aim.

Together with this the Trust have appointed a school improvement advisor who is working with all the schools within the MAT, providing advice and targeted support as required. The schools therefore benefit from sharing CPD from a recognised and established source. The collaborative CPD opportunities are available for all levels of staff, Governors, teachers, TA's and Administrators. This will benefit our school and enable us to further grow staff expertise.

The Trust also will provide development opportunities for all staff with the sharing of personnel/secondment/promotion across the schools in the MAT. The Headteachers within the MAT have formed a fortnightly forum to discuss and share ideas and good practice to work collaboratively together. This group are outward thinking, and all take the lead on an initiative. Thus, everyone benefits from the work of each other.

Joining the MAT also provides economies of scale and best value for money when securing services eg HR, Governor support, IT Services. These services are brokered from the most appropriate providers, not based on geography or Local Authority.

Effectiveness in raising standards:

- Moderation across the schools in the MAT
- Headteachers challenge/hold each other to account re standards
- Proven strategies to share, with regards to all aspects of education including SEND and disadvantaged, health and well being
- Collaboration between all levels of school leadership, from Governors, headteachers, senior leaders, curriculum coordinators, ensure that effective practice is shared across the MAT with the aim of improving all outcomes of pupils
- Expertise of outstanding professionals across the schools