

St Giles Church of England Primary School Derby Diocesan Academy Trust Update

Dear All,

As you may be aware, the Secretary of State for Education issued an Academy Order in March 2015 following a consultation process managed by the Department for Education. As such, Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) must now make preparations for the conversion of St Giles Church of England Primary School to Academy Status, where the school will join the small and focused family of schools that form our Trust. DDAT's priority for St Giles is to work collaboratively with the whole school community to build on the recent improvements, creating a place where all learners have access to high-quality academic provision.

DDAT firmly believe that the school community should be kept up to date and informed on how the preparations are progressing and I hope that you find the information below useful and reassuring.

With every best wish,



David Channon
Chief Executive Officer
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT)

Academy Meeting – 14th May 2015, 7pm, St Giles Church of England Primary School

We would like to invite the school community to a meeting which will be held on Thursday 14th May 2015, from 7pm, at St Giles Church of England Primary School.

All are welcome to the meeting where there will be an opportunity to hear updates on the academy conversion process, ask questions or share your concerns or worries.

Going forward we would like to arrange a monthly surgery session at the school where any member of the community can call in to speak to the Trust on an informal one-to-one basis to ask any questions. Your views on timings will be sought at our meeting on the 14th May as we would like to make the sessions accessible to all.

The Academy Conversion Process – an Overview

1. Consultation – Complete.
2. Legal Works – to include the lease of land to the Academy Trust, and the development of a Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State and DDAT.
3. Transfer of Staff – under the TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)) regulations. Staff employment will move from the Governing Body (the current employer) to the Academy Trust.
4. School Improvement – Detailed plans for school improvement (called the Academy Action Plan) are developed and approved by the Department for Education.
5. Operational Transition – the main bulk of academy conversion work happens in the office where support will be provided by a Finance Director and project team.

St Giles Church of England Primary School Needs You!

DDAT's main focus in the coming weeks is to establish a high performing Governing Body who can work with us in the run up to academy conversion, and into the next chapter of the school's history as part of the DDAT family of schools.

We have already spoken to a number of individuals who we think have shown the skills and commitment that are needed at St Giles to continue on the journey to 'Outstanding', building on recent improvements made by the Headteacher and the team in school. However, a vital component of our Governing Body is parent / carer representation – therefore we need you! We will be appointing two parents / carers to the Governing Body and will be issuing the election forms very soon.

Being a Governor of a school carries a great deal of responsibility, but it is a very rewarding position. Members of the Local Governing Body must always adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life:

- **Selflessness**
- **Integrity**
- **Objectivity**
- **Accountability**
- **Openness**
- **Honesty**
- **Leadership**

Full details can be seen here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

No special qualifications are needed to become a governor. Governors can come from a variety of backgrounds and they are not expected to be educational experts. That is the job of the Headteacher and the staff of the school. However if you take on the role of a governor you will need to maintain a keen interest in the life and work of the school by:

- Attending Governors' meetings and associated committees
- Visiting the school regularly
- Knowing what the school is doing and 'how' it is being done
- Taking an active part in the public life and social life of the school

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please come along to the meeting on 14th May at 7pm where we will be happy to discuss this with you.