



22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

### **FORMATION OF EMBRACE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

As you will recall, we undertook a consultation exercise with stakeholders in November 2017 around our involvement in the formation of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This in turn led to our governing body passing a resolution to become a founding member of Embrace MAT. As a result, along with our MAT partners, we submitted a bid to the Department of Education (DfE) to request permission to form Embrace MAT.

We are delighted to inform you that the DfE has granted permission for all 7 schools involved in our partnership to form Embrace MAT. Given that this follows our first and only application, the view of the DfE towards Embrace MAT is clearly very positive. We are aware that other MAT applications have been rejected, with a request that further work is carried out across the schools.

Consequently, we are now working hard towards the conversion date, when the 7 schools will legally become a MAT. We had hoped to convert on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2018, the start of the next academic year, but the DfE has granted us permission to convert on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018. Unfortunately, this presents several timing difficulties, so we are therefore currently working towards conversion on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 or the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors from across our partnership have been working towards the formation of Embrace MAT for the past 18 months. This work is continuing and we are forming closer working relationships as we do so. A later conversion date will allow us to be in a stronger position at this point in time.

As well as parents/carers, we have kept all members of staff informed of the progress that we are making and are conscious that we need now to appraise our pupils of our move into a MAT and of what this means for them. Consequently, we will be running a Pupil Voice event during the Autumn Term. Pupils representing all 7 schools will be coming together to discuss the formation of Embrace and to make their own decisions on what information they will, in turn, discuss with all pupils at their own school.

In order to remind you of the reason for the formation of Embrace MAT, I have included a separate sheet of 'Frequently Asked Questions' from a previous letter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Banks ( Headteacher)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Which schools will be members of Embrace MAT?**

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.

### **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 over admissions, pupils with Special Educational Needs and exclusions. They 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 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 majority of members of the Embrace Multi Academy Trust will be appointed by the Diocese of Leicester, community schools within the trust have their community ethos protected in the legal agreements that establish the Trust.

### **Why form a Multi-Academy Trust?**

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.

### **Who will be the members of the local governing body?**

A number of governors will be appointed by the Directors of the Embrace Multi Academy Trust, primarily for the skills they bring. But the local governing body also includes two elected parents and one elected member of staff as well as the head teacher. The first governors will be many if not all of the existing governors.

### **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](http://www.education.gov.uk).