



Welcome to our Catholic Multi Academy Trust Consultation Evening



Agenda 6.00 – 7.00

Diocese of Leeds

Welcome, Introductions and Purpose

Give information so people can give their opinions BEFORE governors make any decisions

Where are we now?

What do we want for the future?

What are the Diocese considering?

What does this mean for schools

What does this mean for my child?

What happens next?

An opportunity to ask questions or comment



Catholic Schools are **DISTINCTIVE** Diocese of Leeds

Our Catholic schools are provided to

Assist Catholic parents in their duty of educating their children.

Governors of our schools, and in particular foundation governors, have a responsibility to ensure that, at all times, the school is conducted in accordance with the Diocesan Trust Deed and serves as a witness to Jesus Christ in every aspect of its work.



A Time for Change and Renewal?

Diocese of Leeds

- National development of a new school to school based model of support
- New role of local authorities – brokers and commissioners not deliverers, reduced funding
- New models of schools – trusts, academies and free schools / possible forced conversion of underperforming schools
- **Future of Voluntary Aided status** – this has been our strength for many years, what is the future?



What is an Academy?

Diocese of Leeds

An academy is a state-funded school which operates independently within the requirements of national codes of practice for state schools, however, unlike a state school it receives its funding directly from central government rather than through a local authority.



- Decision from Diocesan Trustee in Leeds to **explore** Academies in the Diocese
- Several Dioceses already progressing with this
- The model in this Diocese is that of a Catholic Multi Academy Trust, i.e. a group of academies coming together under one trust



What is a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust?

Diocese of Leeds

- A Catholic Multi Academy Trust is simply a number of Catholic Academies who agree to work together within an overarching trust body.
- The Diocese of Leeds has suggested groupings to explore the Catholic Multi Academy Trust to avoid any school being left isolated.

In our region we have 16 possible schools

St Mary's+ 5 Feeder Catholic Primary Schools

St John Fisher+ 9 Feeder Primary Schools

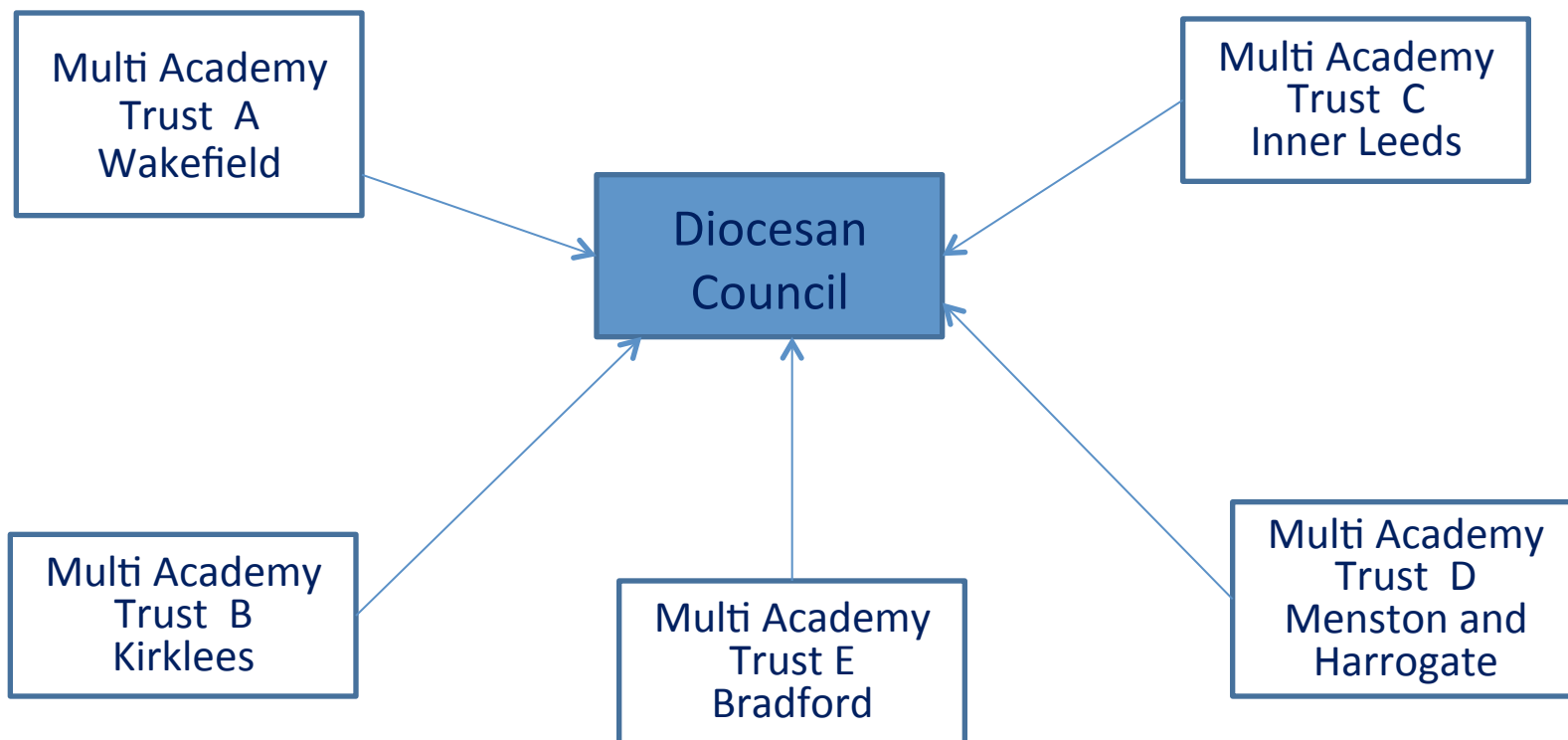
There are certain non negotiable from the CES and Diocese Catholic Head, Deputies and Head of RE for example.

Conditions of service remain (CES Contract).....



The Proposed Model

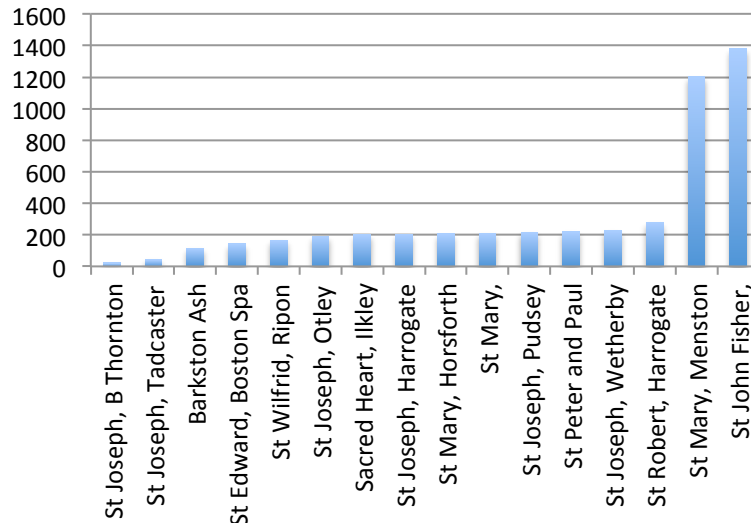
Diocese of Leeds



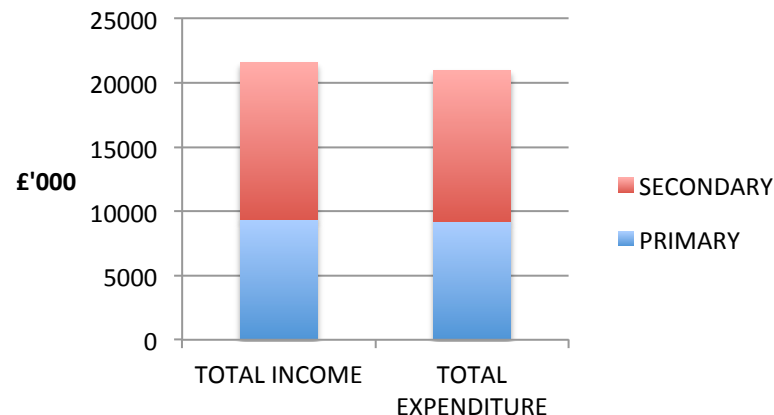
Background- Cluster Size

- 16 schools (2 Secondary, 14 Primary)
- 3 Local Authority Areas (Leeds, Bradford and North Yorkshire)
- Total income c£21 million (split £12m Secondary; £9m Primary)
- c5000 pupils, approximately split 50/50 between Primary and Secondary
- School size ranges from 22 to 1379 pupils!

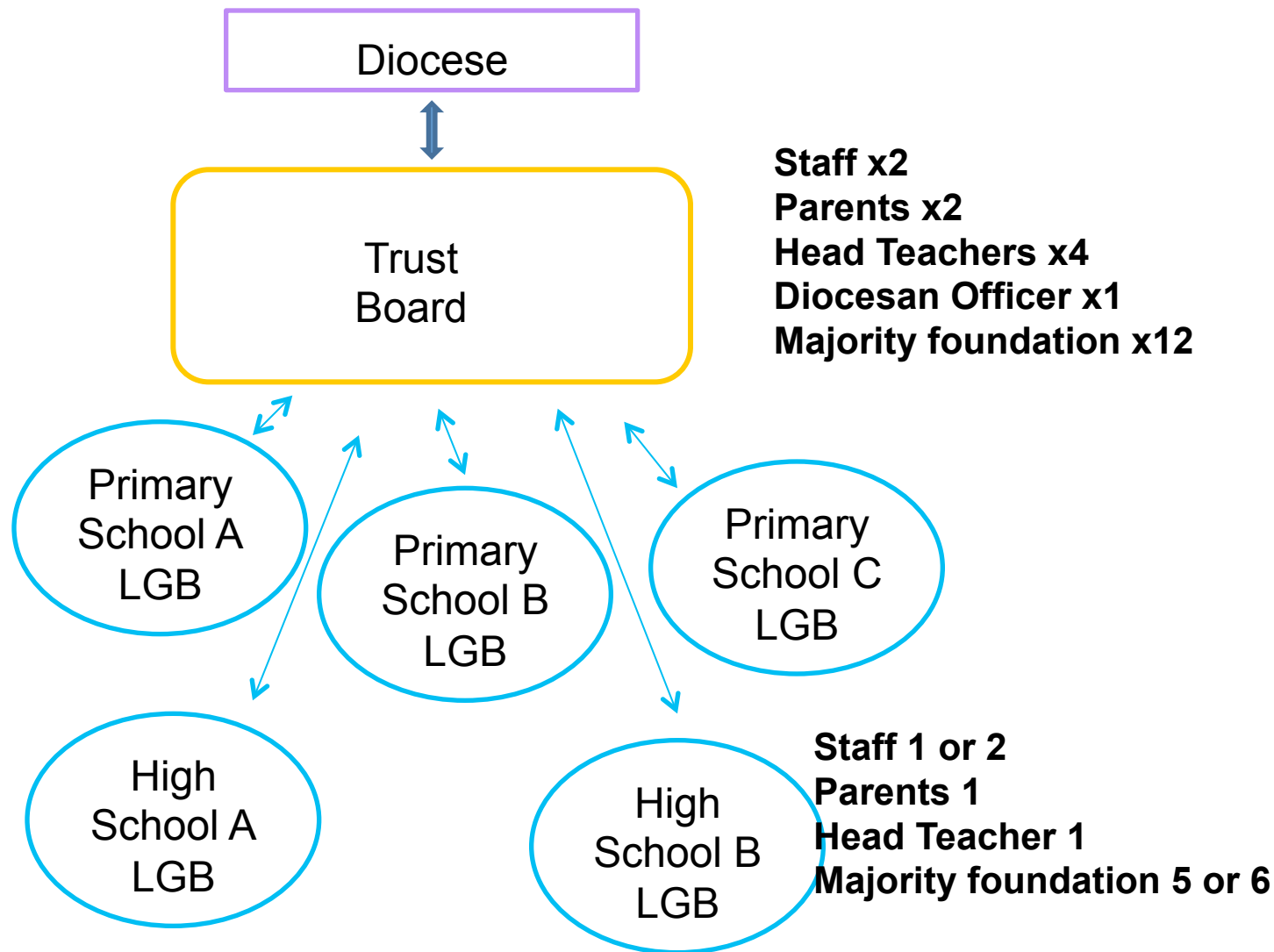
**Number of Pupils
Jan 2011**



**Total income and expenditure
Year to 31.3.11 £'000**



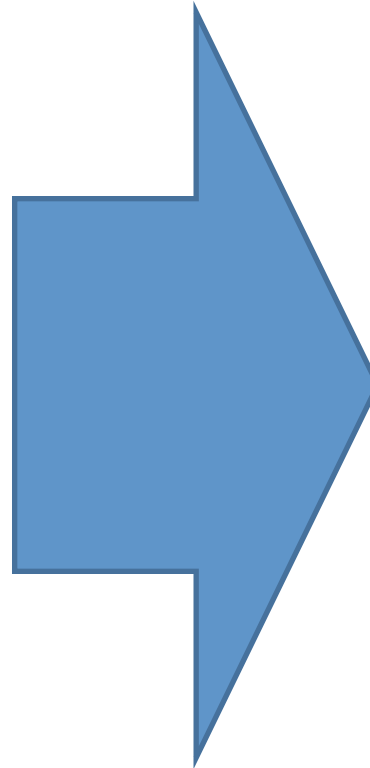
Note: all data taken from DFE performance data website (http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/?pid=pt2011_&cre=holdingpagelink): Pupil nos at Jan 11; Total income calculated as Income per pupil for year to 31.3.11 x no pupils at Jan 11.





NOW

- Single Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools
- Existing Partnerships
- Spiritual, Educational, Pastoral Provision
- Individual Identities



FUTURE

- Multi Academy Trusts
- Strengthened Existing Partnerships
- Spiritual, Educational, Pastoral Provision
- One body – many Identities



Catholic Multi Academy Trusts – Key Principles

Diocese of Leeds

Collective
Responsibility

Trusts are collectively responsible for all children

Partnership Working

Promotion of strong positive links through partnership working with parishes and families

Collaboration

Collaboration with other academies and trusts to share best practice

Support

No individual school left in a vulnerable position. Support will be available from other schools

United In Faith

The Catholic faith is at the heart of the Trust and academies will promote spiritual, educational and pastoral provision for staff and pupils



So what will it mean for my child?

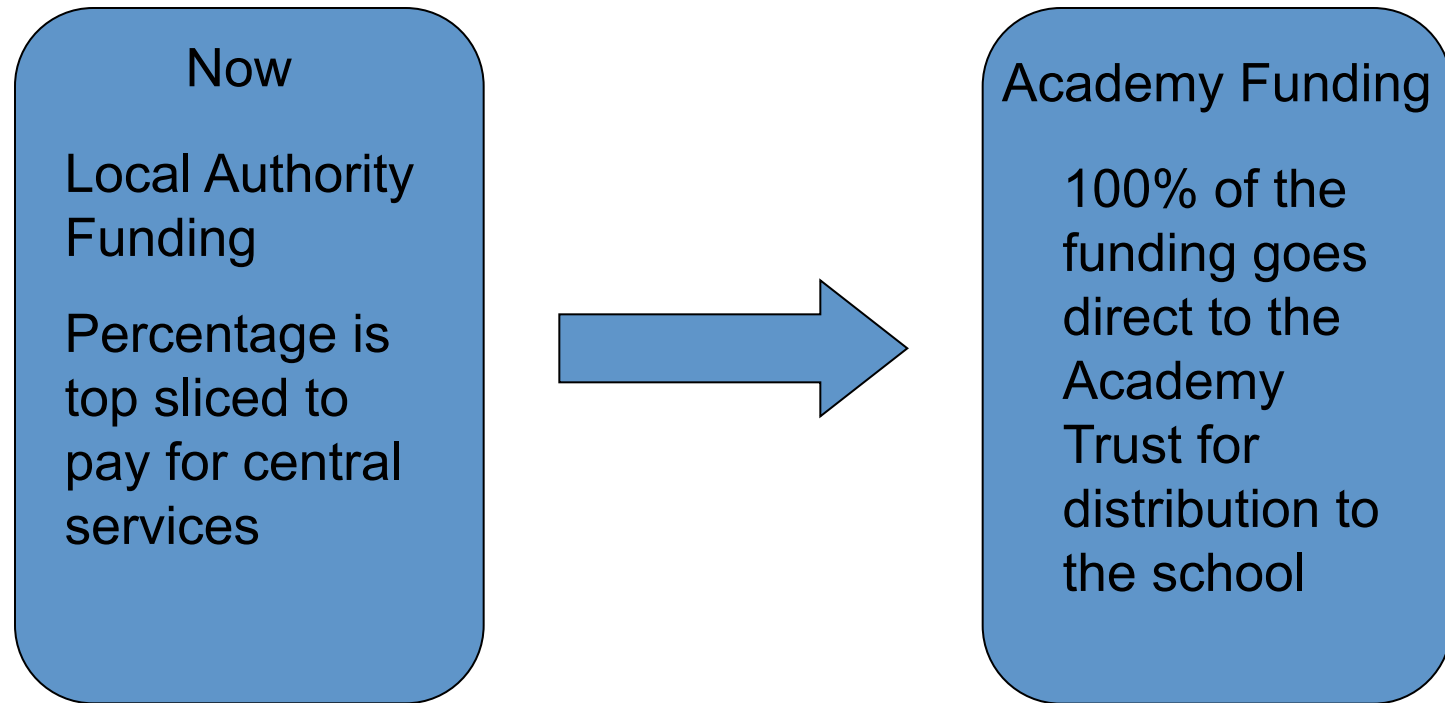
They will come to the same school building

They will work with the same staff

They will wear the same uniform

They will serve and live as a part of
Diocese and the building and land will still be
owned by the Diocese of Leeds

They will be part of their local community
taking part in project links





Concerns and our thoughts

Diocese of Leeds

Won't this cost a lot of money?

Legal fees to convert. A one off grant supports this.

Does becoming an Academy mean schools have less money and therefore need to lose staff?

No. Schools would have the same level of funding and it would be received directly. It is up to the schools to budget for costs accordingly and understand requirements.



Concerns and our thoughts

Diocese of Leeds

Would schools continue to use the Local Authority?

Yes if that is best for them, however the Local Authority landscape is evolving too with many more moving to selling their services or reducing capacity.

Why change a system that is working?

Many would love to keep the status quo. However the government is keen on school to school work rather than LA support. Also the diocese would like a system to protect and support the mission of the Catholic church



Opportunities

- VA schools would no longer have to contribute 10% directly to capital projects
- VA Schools pay VAT on capital equipment at the moment, Academies do not
- By being part of a multi academy trust there are direct and indirect opportunities for sharing resources
- Direct
 - The Trust could employ specialist staff directly that schools could utilise e.g. school improvement staff
- Indirect
 - The Trust could use its economies of scale to ensure the best deals were available for schools to access goods and services e.g. access to HR services that understand Catholic terms and conditions



National Catholic Picture

Diocese of Leeds



130 Catholic Academies (June 2012)

Approx. 2100 VA Catholic Schools

Much less than the community sector



Some concerns

- Loss of support from the local authority in a wide variety of ways – for example, schools struggling in OFSTED terms
- Smaller schools not being able to cope with those things we take for granted now
- Loss of our individual identities
- The greater good
- Break up of LA structures
- Loss of VA status (cannot get it back)



Where do we go from here?

Diocese of Leeds

- Nothing is yet finally decided – the process is not a ‘done deal’
- Our individual governing bodies are consulting whether a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is on balance a good thing or not and, if it is, whether it is right to take the next steps now or at a later date.
- Of the 16 schools not all have to join the trust. Schools can remain VA. However if they wish to be an Academy they can only do so with the prescribed trust.
- Our schools which choose not to proceed at this point may join later if they wish to.



If a GB wants to go further, then consult with parents (individual schools)

An opportunity for questions or comments.

Please record any comments or questions on the paper provided.



Thank you for attending this evening and for
your continued support.

We hope you have found it
useful and informative, and would value your
thoughts to inform the governors decision.