

Dales Academies Trust (DAT): Stakeholder consultation

Parents, Carers and Community Members

The comments, questions and answers below are a summary of the feedback received from all parent/carer and community members 19.6.17 and 8.9.17. They include response to emailed queries, questions raised at meetings and submitted in suggestions boxes. Questions raised by parents, carers and community members via our online survey are recorded within appendix 9.

Croft: 10.7.17

Question: Will there be a change of teaching staff?

Answer: No, the staff complement will transfer 'as is' as part of the TUPE process.

Question: Is there a limit to the extent of growth so that the organisation does not grow too fast and too big?

Answer: No, however we are very aware that bigger organisations lose some of the central oversight so if we grow it will be carefully.

Question: How does the funding work?

Answer: The General Annual Grant (GAG) is granted from the Education and Skills Funding Agency to the Trust like it currently is granted to the LA. The Trust, like the LA takes a top-slice and then passes on the majority of the grant to the schools according to an agreed formula.

Question: Where is All Saints Secondary School?

Answer: It is in Stockton but is in the Diocese of York, as other schools are in the proposed Dales Academies Trust.

Question: As an independent school can we seek sponsorship eg Coca Cola?

Answer: Yes, however we would want any sponsor to be signed up to our ethos which is to promote good education and good health!

Question: What is the name of the new CEO?

Answer: Damian Chubb and he is currently working in Wakefield. He has a primary and secondary background and has worked in two Trusts as a School Improvement Specialist and most recently a CEO.

Question: What is the view of the governing body?

Answer: Historically the governing body has been thinking about this for years but the time has not felt right before. We could not become a stand-alone academy because of our internal capacity and finances. The model we are currently exploring was presented with support of the Diocese and we feel that this is something we should seriously explore now. There has been an enormous amount of discussion about this and a key for us retaining the uniqueness of the school and being part of shaping the organisation at the beginning. If we were to join later on then we may need to adapt some things that are important to us. We have looked at lots of different MATs and approaches. We have gained as much knowledge and factual information as we can before deciding to explore this option.

Question: Are there similar groups of schools that have set up as a Trust that we can talk to?

Answer: Yes, there are and we will be (and we are) talking to them about their experiences. We are currently working alongside another MAT within the Leeds Diocese (BDAT) who are providing lots of support and guidance during this phase of the process.

Question: How does SEN funding work in Multi Academy Trusts?

Answer: The LA continues to hold the statutory duties for SEN and the budgets and will make sure that children with additional needs receive the support they are entitled to.

Question: Do you see advantages to buying in additional SEN support services?

Answer: Yes, and this is something we can choose to do as a Trust.

Question: Who makes the final decision?

Answer: The local governing body will make the decision and we are clear that all our decisions must be made with the best interests of the children.
