



# Warriner Multi Academy Trust

Registered in England & Wales Company No. 9696059

7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Governors

The Directors of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust agreed in their last meeting to recommend to the Members of the Warriner MAT to amend the Articles of Association to the VA (voluntarily aided) majority model.

### **What is a VA majority model?**

Oxfordshire Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) must give their approval for any church school to join a Multi Academy Trust. When the Warriner MAT was originally set up it was as a VC (voluntary controlled) MAT. The ODBE agreed that as a VC MAT we would be restricted to a maximum of 2 small VA church schools being able to join the Warriner MAT. This restriction on the number of VA Church schools who are able to join the Warriner MAT is now impeding the growth of the Warriner MAT. As a VA MAT the ODBE would lift this restriction.

Under the current VC Articles of Association, the ODBE appoint 2 out of 6 members and at least 4 out of 12 Directors. The members appoint the remaining Directors. Included within the Articles of Association are accountabilities to protect the underlying ethos of church schools and non church schools. By having 2 out of 6 members the ODBE ensured that the Articles of Association can not be altered without ODBE approval as 75% majority is required to do so.

A VA model means that VA and VC church schools would be able to join the WMAT. The ODBE would appoint 3 out of 5 members, not enough to be able to change the Articles of Association without the approval of at least 1 non ODBE member. The members (not the ODBE) would appoint all the Directors but now on the basis of recommendation of a Directors nomination committee.

### **Why are the Directors recommending this?**

Remaining as a VC MAT places significant restrictions on the future growth potential of the Warriner MAT as there are very few VC or non church primary school in our geographical area. We are in discussions with Bishop Loveday, a VA church school, at the moment. The majority of Bishop Loveday students currently join the Warriner School at Year 7 and we believe Bishop Loveday is an ideal fit for the Warriner MAT. However, as a VA church school it cannot join the Warriner MAT as it is currently constituted.

Bringing more primary schools into the Warriner MAT will greatly increase the expertise, skills set, leadership and recruitment opportunities.



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There are also Financial benefits, with budgets under constant pressure we will be able to achieve economies of scale and better value for money, allowing the MAT to initially protect and then improve it's resources.

The ethos of both church and non church school will continue to be protected within the new Article of Associations.

## **What happens now?**

The WMAT and ODBE need to agree the new Articles of Association. Once this has been agreed the Members will be invited to vote on passing a special resolution allowing the new Articles of Association established. The Members will then agree the appointment of the new Members according to the new articles of association.

The ODBE, after consulting with us, have stated they would like to appoint the following members;

Anne Davey – Diocesan Director of Education (Anne is currently a member of the WMAT)

Bishop Colin – Bishop of Dorchester

Peter Norman – Former Head Teacher of the Warriner.

Duncan Raper would continue as Chair of the Members as a requirement of his role as Chair of the Directors.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Member will be recommended by the Directors and appointed by the other Members.

The ethos, vision and day to day running of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust and its schools will not be affected by this change.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please could you forward them to the Chair of the Directors Duncan Raper via the clerk to the WMAT [c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

Duncan Raper – Chair of Directors

Annabel Kay – CEO of the WMAT