******PORTSMOUTH & WINCHESTER  
DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Policy for Academisation of Diocesan Schools – March 2024

**Aim**: The purpose of this policy document is to communicate to stakeholders the requirements that need to be met in order for a diocesan school or Stand Alone Trust (SAT) to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

**Options – For all Schools and SATs, the DBE will agree to *consider* the following options:**

1. MATs with Church of England Majority Articles of Association
2. MATs that already have Portsmouth or Winchester diocesan schools as part of their trusts, namely Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP), Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) and Ark

**Criteria**

1. For a MAT to be considered it must have a good track record of improving standards and of managing assets responsibly, considered by the DfE and Regional Director (RD) as a ‘strong’ MAT\*. The DfE publication, Trust Quality Descriptions, July 2023 can assist in this assessment.
2. The DBE need to be satisfied that the following principles will be upheld by the MAT:

* The Christian distinctiveness and Christian values of member schools will be upheld and promoted by adopting the aims set out in the Church of England’s vision for education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.
* The MAT promotes inclusivity and has strong practices to support vulnerable pupils
* The MAT operates a model of local governance for its member schools

1. Any partner MAT must agree to sign a memorandum of understanding outlining services to be retained from the diocese, eg: training for Vision and Values, Collective Worship, RE and preparation for SIAMS.
2. Any partner MAT must share with clarity which services it provides directly to schools and those that are sub-contracted to third party providers.

It is considered good practice by the board that governing bodies undertake relevant background reading in order to be fully informed of academy matters. The following is considered to be essential reading and can be found online [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/church-academies-model-documents):

*Church of England academies: model articles of association*

*Church of England academies: model lease*

*Church of England academies: supplemental agreement*

Further documentation, such as a FAQ list, has been published by the DBE to inform and support schools considering academisation. This will be regularly updated as and when changes in relevant national DfE or Church of England guidance or legislation occurs.

\*The DfE are yet to define a ‘strong’ MAT but the Regional Director will be asked to express a view.

\*Strong MATs are not all necessarily permitted to expand.