



Winwick CE Primary School
 Myddleton Lane, Winwick
 Warrington, WA2 8LQ
 email: winwick_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk
 Telephone: (01925) 630995

Monday 9th June, 2025

Staff Consultation on Proposed Academy Conversion

The school governors over recent years have continued to review our position as a church school within the Local Authority and, in partnership with Liverpool Diocese, have worked to forge strong relationships with many of the Church of England schools across Warrington.

Earlier this academic year we took a decision to apply to the Department of Education for our school to be granted Academy status, with a view to us being able to join the newly formed Emmanuel Diocese of Liverpool Academies Trust (EDLAT). We are very pleased to announce that the DfE has now granted Winwick CE Primary approval for this.

This decision to apply for Academy status was taken following many discussions with our SLT and governors along with representatives from Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education, as well as with other local schools who are looking to join the Trust. We believe that forming a partnership with these schools within this Multi-academy Trust (MAT) would benefit our pupils, staff and school, enormously.

The Rationale

The educational landscape within Warrington has continued to change, with over 50% of Warrington primary schools now being part of an Academy - many of the remaining schools are also considering their futures.

Over recent years Winwick has been committed to working with our local church schools and has played an active part in the very successful cluster of nine schools - known as the 'Grace group'. It is this group of schools who are planning to make up the initial formation of the Emmanuel Trust.

The Trust will be led by Mr Chris Metcalfe who many of you know is Executive Head Teacher at St Margaret's CE Primary School, Orford. Chris is currently a senior leader in school improvement across Warrington as well as being an experienced Ofsted Inspector.

Why are we considering joining this Multi-Academy Trust?

Winwick governors and senior leaders have played an active part in a working group that has developed and shaped the vision and structure of this Trust, which is firmly rooted in being led by strong Christian principles and vision.

Maximising school improvement for all and delivering better value for money which will directly impact in the classroom, on school buildings and on overall resourcing, is a key priority for the Trust as a whole.

Being part of The Emmanuel Trust (EDLAT) will provide a very positive and exciting step for our children, staff and community and will secure a more stable future for us as part of larger, collaborative group.

'In God's love, aspire and achieve to be the best'
1 Corinthians 16:14 'Do everything in love.'





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Joining the MAT also at the formation stage, allows us to be key stakeholders in decision making and in shaping a Trust that will have many unique qualities to meet our own, as well as our partner church schools' needs and challenges.

The Emmanuel Diocese of Liverpool Academies Trust is committed to:

- Securing the best outcomes for pupils and ensuring that they receive a high quality education rooted in the values expressed through the vision: serving flourishing communities.
- Supporting all to flourish, utilising their unique gifts, believing in themselves and making a positive contribution to society.
- Enabling all children, families and staff members to go on flourishing to be all that they can be, striving to achieve their full potential in a loving and fully inclusive environment.

Consultation Process & Next Steps

The Governing Body is now entering a period of Consultation from the 9th June until 18th July 2025. Full information will be shared to allow feedback and questions on what academy status means for our school. Parents and the wider community will also be notified later today of this Consultation process.

Following consultation, governors will meet in the Autumn term to review and make their final decision. If the school commits to joining the Emmanuel Trust, we will agree a conversion time plan and date - which could potentially lead to full conversion by summer 2026.

For staff, a further consultation period will follow with HR and Union Representation, to discuss working as part of the Trust.

A copy of a Frequently Asked Questions document along with other information about the Trust and the consultation process plus a feedback form (which can be done anonymously if you prefer), can be found on the Trust consultation website at <https://edlatconsultations.uk/>

Please submit all feedback by **4.00pm on 18th July 2025** with any questions or comments. Comments can also be emailed to consultations@edlat.org.uk. Paper copies can be obtained and returned to the school office, if these are required.

You can also request to attend the collective face-to-face meeting about converting to academy status via the online form, and we will then contact you separately with an invite to the meeting.

We would like to thank you for all your continued hard work and support here at Winwick CE Primary. We have a truly wonderful Church of England school and are fully committed to ensuring that we provide the very best for our whole school community, enabling everyone to flourish to their true potential.

We look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and receiving your feedback.
Yours sincerely and with our best wishes,

Mrs JR Neal - Chair of Governors

For and on behalf of Winwick CE School Governing Body

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