



Helme C E (VA) J & I School

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10th November 2017

Dear Parent / Carer and other Stakeholders

Multi-Academy Trust

You are already aware that the Governors of Helme Church of England VA Junior and Infant School have been actively looking for a partner to support the school in improving the outcomes for students. The Governors have been in discussions with the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, the Local Authority, the Department for Education and the Regional Commissioner over the best way to achieve this.

The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for West Yorkshire and Lancashire has responsibility for all Academies in this area, either stand-alone academies or multi-academy trusts (MAT). As a result of the last Ofsted inspection the Commissioner is required to issue a directive academy order to the Diocese and Governing body. Consequently, Governors, in liaison with the Diocese, have been actively investigating joining a multi-academy trust to sponsor Helme as a way of fulfilling the Governors' desire to achieve the best educational outcomes for our pupils.

Governors had identified a number of possible partners and discussions were held with these and the RSC's office, as it is the Regional School Commissioner who ultimately approves the choice of MAT. We are pleased that the Regional Commissioner and Headteacher Board approved the Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust to be our sponsor at their meeting in late September. This meant that the formal process could proceed, starting with a confidential conference call on 8th November, 2017 (between the school governors, Diocese, Local Authority, the Department for Education and Learning Accord) and followed closely by this letter of information to you, the parents and carers of children at the school.

The Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust was established in March 2017, led by Executive Headteacher Mrs Elaine Watson. Currently the Trust has three schools, Scissett CE Academy, St Aidan's CE Academy and Skelmanthorpe Academy. It is a mixed multi-academy trust which welcomes both Church and community schools.



Scissett CE Academy is a National Teaching School and has been providing support for Helme through its teaching school alliance (Yorkshire Anglican TSA), since February 2017.

The Governors are very pleased with this decision and are positive that Learning Accord is a good match for Helme and will support the school in moving forward at this challenging time.

The future success of the school is dependent on learning from the other schools and the sharing of good practices.

Governors will be holding a session for parents on 5th December at 5pm in the school hall, where parents will have an opportunity to meet and talk to the Executive Headteacher, the Helme Interim Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

We believe that this is the best way of securing the future success of Helme School and will enable the school to continue providing a quality education to the children.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours faithfully,

Dennis Shields, Chair of Governors
Alex Beaumont, Interim Headteacher
Elaine Watson, Executive Headteacher

