



Friday 15<sup>TH</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and other friends of our School,

As many of you will remember from discussions earlier this year, the Governing Body of St Andrew's School decided at a meeting on 9 February 2017 to initiate the process of converting to an academy and joining the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust.

Following initial consultation during February and March with parents and carers and other stakeholders, we began the legal process of seeking approval from the Department for Education. The general election in the summer caused some delay, but the Academy Order giving us consent to join the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (the 'Bath & Wells MAT') has now been granted and we are moving forward with the conversion to academy status.

St Andrew's is one of 12 early years and primary age schools in and around Bath all intending to join the Bath & Wells MAT as a "Hub". We have looked at other options, joining other MATs, forming a new MAT or staying as we are. Staying as we are is not an option: as more and more schools opt to become academies the local authority's funding is reducing to the point where they can no longer provide the services schools need.

Each of the 12 governing bodies has opted for the Bath & Wells MAT because we share the same values.

The Bath & Wells MAT is focussed on early years and primary age schools and has a proven track record of continuing school improvement. As an established Multi Academy Trust, joining the Bath & Wells MAT can have an immediate impact in reducing the administrative burden on each school, for example with HR support services and budgeting support.

The Bath & Wells MAT recognises that our schools are individual and different, but at the same time many of the challenges we face are similar. Working together as a "Hub" will enable us to share resources and best practice still as separate schools, but all as part of the same organisation. We believe that this will enable us to offer exciting new opportunities for our pupils and to further strengthen the career development of our staff.

Having carried out a risk assessment, we also concluded that the Bath & Wells MAT offers the best chance of achieving a stable future for our school at a time of considerable uncertainty. The Church of England has a long and distinguished history of providing education, and the fact that the Diocese of Bath & Wells has set up the Bath & Wells MAT gives us confidence that that the MAT is here for the long term.



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More information about the Bath & Wells MAT is available at [www.bwmat.org](http://www.bwmat.org) where you will also find some questions and answers which you might find useful. We will also make the information available on the school website [www.standrewsprimarybath.com](http://www.standrewsprimarybath.com).

We are seeking the opinions of stakeholders and would like to invite you to a public consultation meeting on Wednesday 17 January at 2.00pm or 6.00pm at the school. Please let us know if you would like to attend either of these meetings. Please look at the information available in the meantime, and send any comments or questions to [consultations@bwmat.org](mailto:consultations@bwmat.org).

If you require a printed version of any of the documents available on the website please either e-mail [standrews\\_pri@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:standrews_pri@bathnes.gov.uk) or contact the school office on 01225 310135. Please note that the school will be closed from Saturday 16 December to Tuesday 2 January.

The consultation will remain open until the end of January, and the questions and answers will be updated from time to time in response to any queries received. We look forward to seeing you on 17 January.

Kind regards,

Sue East                      and                      Jane Brown  
**Head Teacher**    **Chair of Governors**

On behalf of the Governing Body of St Andrew's CEVA Primary School.

