

Leybourne Saints Peter and Paul CE VA Primary School

Parent consultation

June 2016

Ian Bauckham

CEO, Tenax Schools Trust

What is Tenax Schools Trust?

- A charitable educational trust
- In the trusteeship of the Diocese of Rochester (80%) and the Diocese of Chichester (20%)
- Which brings together Church of England schools
- Enabling them to secure their futures and continue to serve their communities in the new schools landscape
- Enabling them to benefit from strong collaborative opportunities, including:
 - Teaching school designation and strong professional development
 - Full participation in and benefits from initial teacher training and leadership development

Tenax vision and ethos

- A Church of England ethos which believes in the value and potential of every student to achieve excellence academically and become fully the person God intends
- A Trust for all ages /phases of education, working in partnership with each other, learning from each other
- The importance of values and character alongside formal learning
- In our Church of England schools particular emphasis on teaching young people about Christian values, beliefs and traditions
- Commitment to providing brand new schools where needed
- ‘Tenax’ is the Latin for ‘tenacious’ or ‘steadfast’

Multi Academy Trusts (MAT)

- A group of academies in the same academy trust
- Funded via a single Funding Agreement with Secretary of State
- Board of directors (trustees) for whole MAT
- Individual schools have Local Governing Bodies
- Individual schools keep legal identity as schools eg own Ofsted, data
- Per pupil funding as LA schools + ESG – schools in trust contribute to centrally supplied services on per capita basis

Governance in Tenax Schools

- Local governing bodies (LGBs)
- Agreement on on-going role of local bodies which appoint governors
- Tenax committed to maintaining elected parent and staff governors, regardless of legal requirements
- LGBs work as a scrutiny and challenge panel for headteachers

The future schools landscape I

- Changing role for Local Authorities
- All school improvement and supporting funding ending April 2017
- Ambition for academy trusts to be the normal model of school organisation
- Currently two thirds of secondaries are academies and nearly 1 in 5 of primaries
- Largest rate of increase is primaries into trusts

The future schools landscape II

The Secretary of State's statement to Parliament (6 May 2016)

- “Let me be clear: we firmly believe that schools becoming more autonomous and more directly accountable for their results raises standards.
- We still want every school to become an academy by 2022.
- However, we understand the concerns that have been raised about a hard deadline and legislating for blanket powers to issue academy orders.
- In March, a record high of 227 schools chose to apply for academy status, showing clearly where the momentum lies.”

What is the policy of the RDBE?

The Diocesan Board of Education policy states that it will:

- “Prioritise its resources towards supporting and facilitating the growth of Church of England multi-academy trusts (MATs) across the diocese
- Adopt a more pro-active, positive stance towards the academy programme, encouraging the development of the existing Church of England MATs”.
- Note: Under agreement between C of E and DfE, VA schools will be expected to join ‘Church majority’ trusts

What won't change at Leybourne?

- Pay and conditions of service for teachers and support staff (TUPE)
- The headteacher
- The uniform
- The name of the school
- The term dates
- The school day times
- Admissions arrangements
- Freedoms on choice of secondary school
- The people on the (local) governing body
- The link with the parish church

What advantages are there for Leybourne?

- Opportunities for like minded strong schools to work together professionally, learn from each other and expose themselves to peer challenge
- Opportunity to ensure schools benefit from quality professional development and training for staff (as Teaching School trust this is prioritised)
- Opportunities for leadership development and peer challenge and support
- Support at times of transition or change
- Intervention if needed to preserve high standards
- Good quality governor training and mutual support and learning
- Shared services and procurement to offer better value for money
- Tenax is a Church majority trust and so fits Leybourne's ethos and existing legal status

The process

- Governing body decision
- Parochial Church Council (PCC) decision (as body responsible for appointing governors)
- Diocesan permission (ownership of site and 'religious authority' for VA school)
- Consultation with parents and other stakeholders
- Due diligence
- Legal and project management costs are covered by £25k grant from DfE
- Approval from Regional Schools Commissioner and Headteacher Board
- Approval from Secretary of State

Tenax shape and size

- Operating across Kent and East Sussex / Dioceses of Rochester and Chichester
- June 2016: 3 schools (all former VA, one secondary and two primary)
- December / January 2017: 7 schools (one secondary, six primary)
- June 2017: 8-9 schools
- September 2017: 10 schools (Tonbridge free school opens)
- By 2020: ? 15 ? Schools
- Optimum size for a Trust to operate effectively in support of member schools: around 6000+ pupils. Tenax growth planning takes account of this.

Any Questions

