



Formal consultation

What is proposed for Littledean Church of England School'?

The governing board of Littledean Church of England School is formally seeking views on plans to join the Diocese Gloucester Academies Trust (DGAT), an Academy Trust. The proposed change means that the school will formally join a larger family of schools and will be under the direct legal governance of DGAT. The change means that Littledean Church of England School' will no longer be responsible for its own governance.

If you would like this form in another language, large print, Braille, or Audiotape, please contact us on 01594 822171

Loving one another, building each other up

Proposal for Littledean Church of England School to join the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust – an Academy Trust.

Section A

The proposal

To what extent do you agree or disagree to the proposal for Littledean Church of England School to join the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

Strongly agree Agree
Strongly disagree Disagree
Neither agree or disagree

Section B

About you

Are you a...please tick all that apply

Parent/carer with a child at Littledean Church of England School
Parent/carer with a child at another local primary school
Parent/carer with a pre-school child
Governor School staff
PCC member Member of local Church
Other (please specify)

Section C

Comments

Please make any additional comments in the box below

Why does the governing board want the school to join DGAT?

The governing board considers that as a small, rural school our whole school community would benefit from the opportunities that come from being part of a larger organisation and family of schools. We have met with a number of Trusts and conclude that as a Christian organisation, DGAT shares our Christian vision. DGAT understands what it means to be a Church school and would support and nurture our Christian distinctiveness.

What does this mean for pupils and school staff?

The governing board believes that joining DGAT would support the school to continue achieving its priorities and enable more professional development opportunities for staff, which would result in even better educational outcomes for pupils. We recognise that the pupils and staff of the school would benefit from joining a larger organisation to enable them to continue to thrive, recognising that the model in which we currently operate to achieve some of these benefits will change as a result of other schools taking decisions to join Academy Trusts over time. More detailed information regarding the organisation and operation of DGAT can be found at www.dgat.org.uk

There would continue to be a robust accountability structure, and a safe and nurturing home or our school which would maximise opportunities for pupils and staff now, and in the future.

What happens next?

Stakeholder meeting: Tuesday 11 November at 5.30 pm at the school

Consultation closes: 12.00pm on Friday 28 November 2025

Governing board considers consultation responses: w/c 1 December 2025

The final decision is made by the Department for Education Advisory Board: 19 February 2026

Please return this form to: **Academisation consultation** at Littledean Church of England Primary School, Church Street, Littledean, Gloucestershire, GL14 3NL

You may also share your views here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/5TZ7d289t>

What is an Academy Trust?

An academy trust is a legal entity that governs a group of schools through a single board of trustees. It is set up by a group of schools, usually a local collaboration, that share a common ethos and vision. An academy trust is accountable for all schools within the group. Schools within an academy trust are answerable to the Trustees and to the Department for Education (DfE).

An academy trust is a charitable company, limited by guarantee. This means that it is registered at Companies House.

The academy trust is the employer and holder of land titles.

What is the role of the Diocese in making this decision?

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) must be asked to provide its consent for any Church of England school to join an academy trust. There is a formal process to seek this consent. The DBE will want to be assured that the change will not impact the school's Christian distinctiveness and that the chosen Trust provides a safe and sustainable home for the school, now and in the future.

How can I find out more about DGAT?

A great place to start is the DGAT website, which you can find at www.dgat.org.uk. We will also hold meetings and representatives from DGAT will join these to answer any questions.

FAQs

Who will make decisions about the school?

Day to day decisions will continue to be made by the Headteacher, supported by the DGAT central team as and when needed. The DGAT Board of Trustees makes strategic decisions about all schools within the Trust but also delegates some local decisions to the school's local governing board.

What changes will my child notice?

Your child will probably not notice any immediate differences. They will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms, and with the same teachers.

Will there be any change to the school's name, logo, school day, or uniform?

No. There is no requirement from DGAT for the school to make any changes to the school name, logo, uniform, or school day. If the school joins DGAT we will include the DGAT logo on our website, letters, etc.

Will the school get more or less money by joining DGAT

No. The school will have access to the same amount of funding but will be able to benefit from greater financial efficiencies as a result of centralised procurement of some goods and services, which comes from being part of a larger group of schools.

Will my child's teacher be moved to different schools across DGAT?

No, not generally. Teaching staff will remain contracted to the school and will be able to attend joint training with other DGAT staff to benefit from shared practice. They will also share the good practice from our school to help develop other schools.

When is this change expected to take place?

At this stage we have only taken a decision to enter consultation. If following this period there is agreement by all required parties and completion of legal documents we anticipate the change will take place in June 2026

