

Ingatestone Infant School

Fryerning Lane Ingatestone CM4 ODF

Executive Headteacher: Mr Neil Taggart

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jodie Philp

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27th June 2023

RE: Joining the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust

Dear Staff, parents and carers,

'Look, if you had one shot, or one opportunity. To seize everything you ever wanted in one moment. Would you capture it or just let it slip?' Eminem

The Governing Bodies of both schools have been exploring forming a federation. They now know that this would not serve the best interests of our community.

A working party was set up to explore different multi academy trusts (MATs) to join. Research was undertaken by Governors from both schools. They approved a proposal for our schools to join the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust.

A key factor in this selection is because we know that it will not change the values and principles of our school. We will contribute to the expansion of the MAT and support it in its future growth.

The Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust includes Shenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School and Mountnessing Church of England Primary School. Bentley St Paul's Church of England (VA) Primary School are joining in September. The infant and junior schools have requested to join this Trust. It will be subject to approval by the Department for Education.

As a member of the Brentwood Collaborative Partnership we already work well together. We have engaged and developed joint activities. This has included moderating writing, early reading training, visiting schools and sharing resources.

There is a similar ethos and understanding between the member schools. Our school vision and values compliment those of the Trust. We want to ensure our finances for the future are stable. The member schools are near which is practical for working together. Engaging with this Trust will form a successful partnership for our community.

There are many positive benefits for all member schools and their pupils for being part of this MAT. It will provide opportunities for us all to live life in its fullness and unlock our potential. For example:

Improved outcomes: The member schools are successful. There will be opportunities for us all to develop our practice further. This will enhance the learning experience all our pupils receive as part of the Trust.

Strengthen Leadership: Leaders and teachers can share their combined expertise, knowledge and thinking. Increasing opportunities to work on challenges and solutions together. Building trust and learning from each other to benefit and connect us all within the Trust.

Shared Accountability: Working together in a collaborative way will strengthen accountability and support. Schools will be able to compare themselves with others within the Trust. Practice will develop in a positive way. Building trust to ensure there is a shared commitment to a common goal. This is key to school improvement and raising expectations.

Strategic dialogue: Governors and trustees can draw on their unique characteristics. Learning from each other they can plan in a strategic way. Members will drive this shared commitment forward together as one.

Professional Development: Organised training across the Trust will reduce costs and share expertise. Planned career professional development will allow for collaboration to raise standards. Latest research and initiatives specific to the Trust goals will drive improvement.

Staff retention: Succession planning will improve. The Trust can grow future leaders. Creating access to wider career development opportunities within the Trust. This will celebrate and recognise the contribution our staff make. Creating access to the possibility of wider career development opportunities within the Trust.

Staff Development: Create opportunities to support initial teacher training. Developing 'home grown' teachers and apprentices which is currently a national issue.

Specialist Resources: Purchasing professional knowledge by combining our funding within the Trust. This will improve what we can offer our community.

Economies of Scale: The Trust is able to buy resources as a collective on behalf of its schools. This creates economies for all. With ever tightening budgets this will help schools to realise their potential. Schools can free up finances to develop teaching and learning.

This is an exciting opportunity for our school community. Our school will form a positive partnership within the Trust which will benefit us all. It will make a massive difference to the contribution our pupils make to their community. Collaborating together in this way will improve outcomes for children. Being part of this Trust will support and develop staff. The all-round learning experience we provide for our children and staff will flourish.

If you have any questions or comments in respect of this. The governors of Ingatestone and Academy Trust Directors are running the following consultation meetings:

Monday 10th July 2023:

- **3.30 pm Ingatestone Infant School and Ingatestone and Fryerning C of E (VA) Junior school staff and unions only at IFJS.**
- **5.00pm Family members from either school - Ingatestone and Fryerning C of E (VA) Junior school**
- **6.30pm Family members from either school – Ingatestone Infant School**

Families can attend either one. Please return the form below confirming your attendance. If you are unable to attend please email the office with any questions. We will then forward them to the appropriate members of the trust board and governing body to answer.

The governing body and I have the pupil's and staff's best interests at heart. Both school communities will add value to the Trusts core offer. Connecting, aligning and growing together with schools with similar ideals and values. Building a committed, sustainable and transparent partnership to unlock our potential.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Taggart

Mr N Taggart

Executive Head Teacher

Please remove this slip and return to school office by 07.07.23. Re: Joining the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust

I, _____ parent/carer of _____

WILL / WILL NOT (please delete) be attending the meeting at 3.30pm / 5.00 pm / 6.30pm (please circle).

Signed: _____ Date: _____