



10th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In March 2022, Huxley CE Primary School was inspected by Ofsted who judged the school to be inadequate and it was placed in Special Measures. The inspection report, was critical of governance and identified a number of areas that needed to be addressed and required rapid improvement. However, it, also acknowledged the early work of the headteacher and staff in designing a curriculum that suitably catered for the needs of the pupils and reflected that the flexi-school model was still very much in its primitive stage and was yet to be embedded, having only been introduced in September 2021.

In March 2022, Cheshire West & Chester Local Authority (LA), with the support of Chester Diocese applied for an Interim Executive Board (IEB) to be installed to oversee the governance of the school and to drive forward the raising of standards and to ensure the improvements that were needed. This was granted by the Regional Director's Office in May 2022 and the IEB has been in place for over twelve months, which has seen the Chair, Mrs Gail Webb, working closely with Mrs Gourley, as headteacher, and in conjunction with school improvement support from the Local Authority to ensure rapid and sustained improvement across the school. These arrangements remain in place and have seen positive progress in establishing and creating a curriculum that meets the needs of pupils within a flexi-school model.

Due to the school's inadequate judgement, under section 4 of the Academies Act 2010, the Secretary of State for Education issued a directive academy order for Huxley CE Primary to become an academy. Since May 2022, in conjunction with the Diocese and other key partners, the Regional Director's office have been seeking to identify a suitable sponsor for the school to join a Multi-Academy Trust. As a church school, this requires the school to join a trust with articles that have been agreed by the Church of England and Department for Education.

We are now in a position to be able to provide an update regarding the sponsor. Following an extended period of consideration, exploring possible sponsor options, and a comprehensive process of scrutiny, Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) has been identified as a suitable sponsor. The CDAT Trust Board has undertaken its own due diligence and as a result has agreed to bring the school into its trust, welcoming Huxley CE Primary into its family of schools. Whilst this is the first stage of the process, it is a key and significant development towards securing the known future of the school. The Trust will now work with the school, the IEB and the Regional Director's Office in presenting the proposal to the North West Advisory Board for approval, which is expected to be early in the autumn term.

Further information about the Trust, the outcome from the Advisory Board and, if successful, the process and timeframe for conversion will be shared in more detail in the autumn term. In the meantime, this positive news concludes what has been a successful year for the school and we wish to express our thanks and gratitude to Mrs Gourley and the staff team for their commitment and professionalism, and to the parents and families for your support and partnership. Each have played such an important role this academic year in providing the children with such memorable experiences and striving to raise standards of education and improve the outcomes for every child at Huxley CE Primary.

We wish the whole school community well for a good end to the term and a well-deserved rest and enjoyable break over the summer holidays.

Kind Regards,



Ms Gail Webb
Chairperson
Interim Exec Board



Mr Chris Penn
Director of Education
Diocese of Chester



Ms Debbie Edwards
Head of Education & Inclusion
Cheshire West & Chester LA