

## **General Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Will St Joseph's lose its character or ethos?**

No. Whilst we would be working in a larger family of schools with a very similar Catholic ethos as ourselves, becoming an academy would provide us with greater freedoms to continue to provide high quality learning experiences. Each school is able to retain its own special and unique qualities whilst benefitting from sharing ideas and expertise from a strong team.

St Joseph's will retain its own name, uniform, ethos and identity. It will simply gain strength and support in the teaching of the Catholic faith and the curriculum by being part of a wider family of Catholic Schools.

### **2. How is an academy funded?**

Academies are given the money directly that would have been given to the County Council. This means that academies can choose how to spend the money they are given.

### **3. Will we get more money as an Academy?**

Academisation should not bring about a financial advantage or disadvantage to a school. Academies receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school, plus additions to cover the services that are no longer provided for them by the LA. The Government is clear that becoming an academy should not bring about a financial advantage or disadvantage to a school. However, alongside the other freedoms that they enjoy, academies have greater freedom on how they use their budgets. Within the Trust there is also the opportunity to reduce costs through efficient use of resources and through exercising its greater buying power.

### **4. My child has special education needs. How can I be confident that he/she will be given the same level of support, attention and care?**

The Academies Act 2010 requires academies to follow the same statutory framework for special needs as local authority schools. Academies receive the same level of additional funding to support those children.

### **5. Will we have to raise our own capital funding as an academy?**

No. All schools, including academies, are still eligible for Government capital funding. This is allocated to Trusts by the DfE. Xavier is of sufficient size to qualify directly for school condition funding (SCA) rather than needing to bid for capital grants, this is then invested directly into each school. As an academy, the governing body is no longer required to make a 10% contribution to capital expenditure

### **6. What happens to St Joseph's PTA and Governor funds and fundraising?**

Friends of St Joseph's and Governors current and future funds remain the property of the Friends of St Joseph's and Local Governing Body for use by St Joseph's as per the current spend decision mechanism. As the governing body is no longer required to contribute to capital expenditure there is greater flexibility on how these funds are used to benefit the education of pupils at St Joseph's.

**7. Are there any rules relating to admissions that academies and maintained schools must follow?**

Yes. Academies must follow the law for school admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as if they were a maintained school.

**8. Would there be any implications for admissions?**

All Xavier schools are duty bound to follow the Diocese admission policies, as St Joseph's currently do. Applications for school places would continue to be made through the LA which has a statutory duty to ensure that there is a school place for every child.