



FAQ about the role of the LDBS

The LDBS has been identified as a source of strength for Church schools. Schools value the protection and support that the LDBS provide. This has prompted questions about whether this would change if all schools join an academy trust.

1. Will the function of the LDBS change if all Church schools join academy trusts?

Every diocese has a board for education which has a [range of statutory functions](#) in relation to Church schools. In London this is the LDBS. The functions are the same for academy and VA schools and so will not change if all VA schools become academies – although the way that the LDBS provides this core service will continue to develop as the needs of schools develop. LDBS offers a wide range of support through the GROW Education Partners Ltd, which go beyond the statutory functions. It is our hope that schools/ trusts will continue to commission support from LDBS/ GROW in the future. This will remain a decision for schools/ trusts.

2. What role does the LDBS have in Church academy trusts?

The LDBS is a Member of Church MATs, with [roles and responsibilities](#) that include appointment of trustees.

3. What is the role of the LDBS during the conversion process?

LDBS consent is needed before governors can apply to join an academy trust. We hope that by working collaboratively with schools from the start we will move forwards together with schools in a way that will enable us to serve children and communities for the next generation. LDBS is expecting to give consent on a strategic, rather than a case-by-case, basis. We expect that this approach will be welcomed by our Regional Director (the new name for the Regional Schools Commissioner).

4. Is the LDBS in discussion with other stakeholders?

Yes! We will secure a stronger outcome for all our Church schools if we work with a wide range of stakeholders wherever there is common ground. We are keen to work with the main education unions, local authorities and affiliated community schools as well as Church schools, governors and clergy.

5. Is the LDBS working with other Dioceses?

Yes! We are working together with other dioceses and with the national Church of England Education Office to raise issues with the DfE and to learn from the experiences of other dioceses. In some dioceses the majority of schools are already academies.

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