

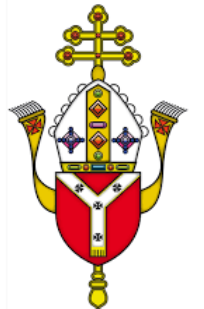
*'Learning and Growing with God by Our Side'*

# St Alban & St Stephen's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Consultation on the proposal to  
convert to Academy Status as part of  
the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust



All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust



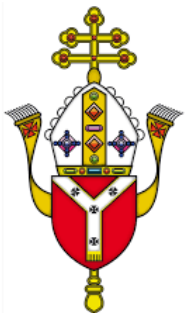




# Welcome and Introductions



All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust





# Diocese of Westminster

## Diocesan Academy Strategy in Context

- 82% of secondary schools, 43% of primary schools and 47% of special schools in England are academies (as of June 2024).
- All Catholic Dioceses in England have plans in place to form Catholic Academy Trusts for all their schools to protect Catholic Education.
- There are currently 58 Academies in 9 CATs across the Diocese of Westminster, with growing engagement in all Family areas.
- All schools in the Diocese will have plans to join a CAT by 2025.

# Foreword from the Cardinal...

“Now we are living through times of considerable hardship for many ..... We have to see, be clear, and readjust. This means taking difficult decisions, marked by realism, about resources. In such circumstances it is right to look for economies that can be achieved by structures of cooperation, between schools within the same locality and within the wider family of schools. This is not an enforced 'master-plan', as you well know. It is a measured and appropriate response to the reality we face. **The alternative, individual schools in isolation, will lead not only to conflict but also to the decline that eventually accompanies isolationist policies.** “

***Extract from Cardinal Nichols' address to the Diocese of Westminster  
Headteachers Conference February 2018***





Diocese of Westminster

# The Diocesan Vision for the CAT programme

- To be inclusive and open to all Catholic schools
- To provide pupils with the best life chances and educational outcomes in Catholic communities imbued with gospel values and with Christ at the centre
- Develop the professional expertise by recruiting and retaining the best staff
- Develop existing links and partnerships with other Schools
- Benefiting from shared economies of scale and efficiency savings
- School leaders, teachers and Governors can combine skills, share thinking and tackle challenges together
- Protect, secure and develop Catholic education

# Our Proposal

Following a period of growing collaboration, support and work together over the past year the Governors of St Alban & St Stephen's believe that the time is now right to convert to an Academy as part of the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT).

ASCAT is currently comprised of the following schools

- Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School
- Holy Rood Catholic Primary School
- Divine Saviour Catholic Primary School
- St Johns Catholic Primary School
- St Roses Catholic Infant School
- St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
- St John Fisher Catholic Primary School
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School
- JFK Catholic School
- St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School

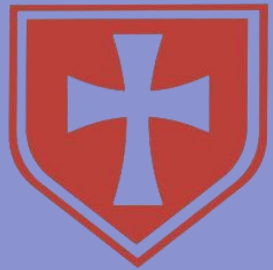


# ASCAT current schools



## St Ursula

Watford, Rickmansworth and the surrounding areas



## New St Albans Hub

St Albans, Harpenden, London  
Colney, Potters Bar



## St Mark

Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted  
(Dacorum)

# Diocesan Academy Strategy

  
ST. JOAN OF ARC  
Catholic School



St Ursula



St Albans



St Mark

  
St. Catherine's Catholic  
Primary School



Barnet



# How will we benefit?

- Economies of scale and increased resilience
- Greater collaboration
- Coordination and support from an Executive Leader
- Shared back-office functions
- Greater access to capital funding
- Able (Eligibility?) to reclaim VAT (on capital works)
- Recruitment and retaining the best Catholic Leaders and staff
- Protect, secure and develop Catholic Education through a network of Family CATs supporting schools



# What will not change?

- The ethos of our school
- The staff team
- Our Curriculum
- School Uniform
- Governors will still continue to serve on a Local Governing Body (Including Parent **and Staff** Governors)
- Our current admissions policy will continue to apply
- The timings of the school day
- Terms and conditions of employment





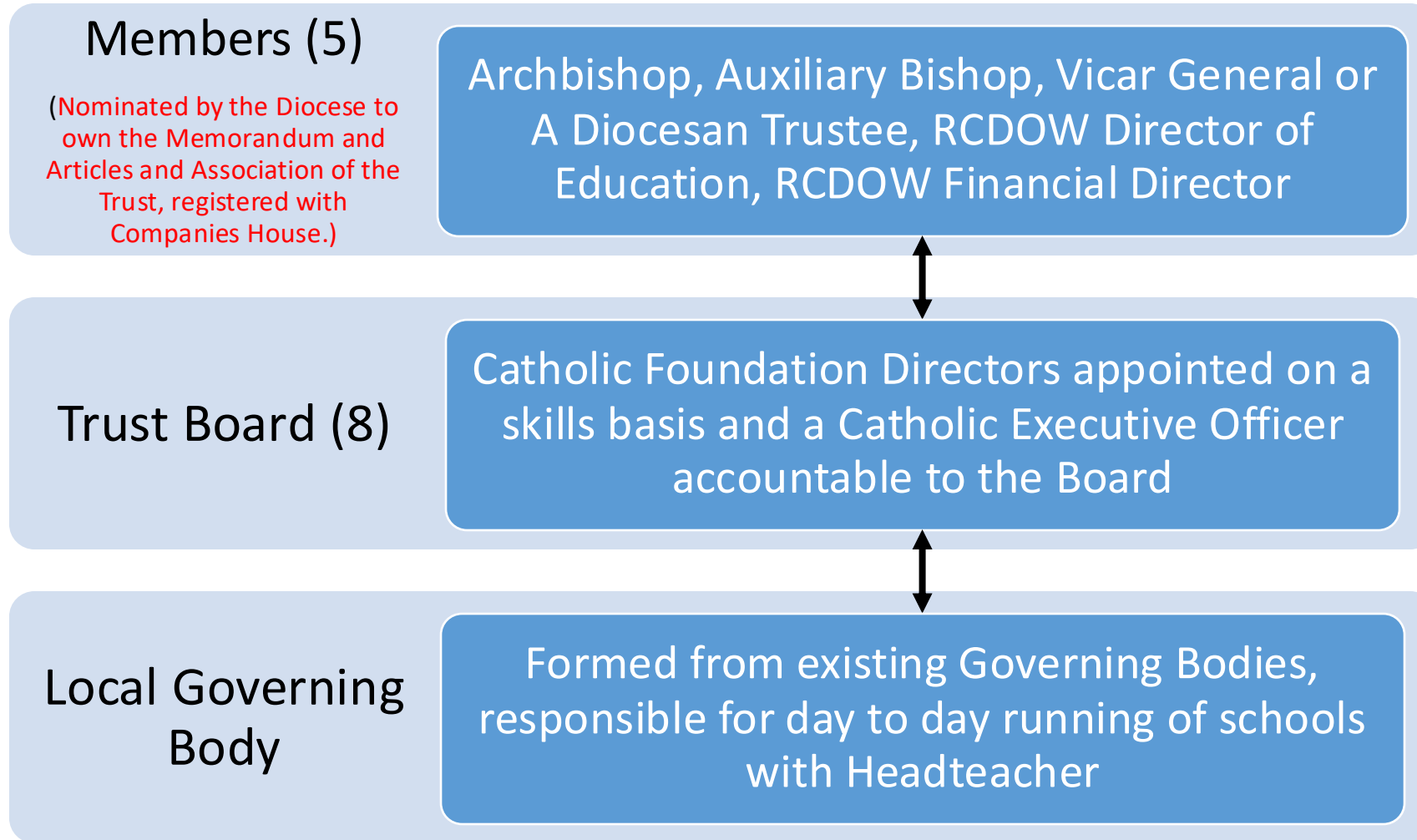
# What will change?

- The legal status of the school and its governance arrangements
- The current governing body become a local governing body
- The Trust Board have strategic oversight of all Trust schools
- A CEO who leads the strategic development of the Trust
- The school is funded directly by the ESFA as opposed the Local Authority

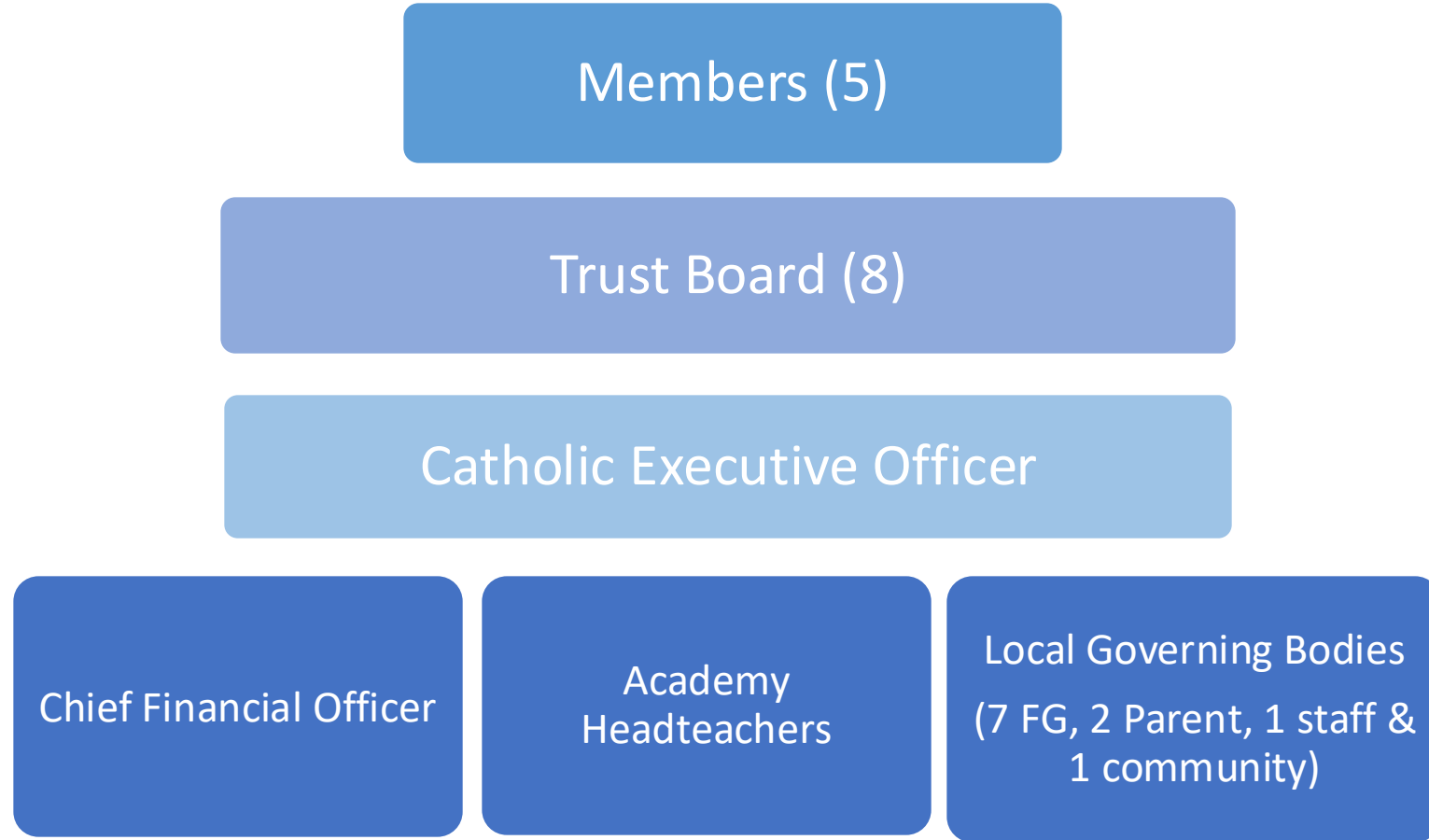




# Governance Structure



# Organisational Structure



Not sure if these are “at the same level”. Also, why single out CFO within ASCAT team?

# Why now?



Preserve the future of Catholic Education **following mandate of the Diocese**



Opportunity to shape the local agenda



Growing pressures on School budgets



Falling roll in parts of the Diocese



Reduction in capacity of Local Authorities to support schools

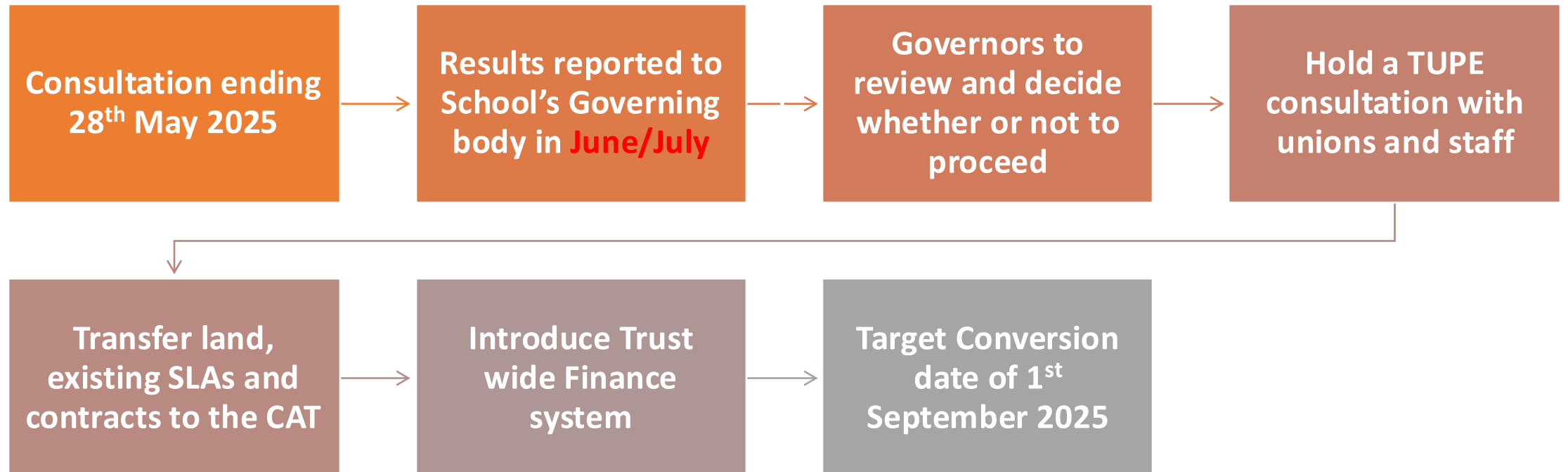


Remains an important part of education policy

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# What are the next Steps?



# Any Questions....





Thank you for  
your time and  
contributions



All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust

