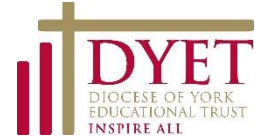




York Diocesan Board of Education's Policy for Academies and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs)



Academy Conversion - Contribution Charges

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) took the decision in Autumn 2019 that from 1st January 2020, all new academy conversions (taken to be the issuing of our conditional consent letter) will incur a charge for the time taken to process the academy conversion by the Diocese.

Up to this point, the DBE had absorbed the full cost of all the work required to facilitate the DfE's academy programme on behalf of its Church schools and the site trustees, with the exception of the legal fees incurred. Much of this work is wide ranging and includes many hours of diocesan officer time in order to prepare paperwork, attend meetings, incur travel expenses and carry out investigations to ensure that the site trustees' interests are preserved through statutory transfers and other matters.

It is through the close working relationship with our MATs and the DfE that we ensure that no conversion takes place, either as a sponsored or converter academy, without the written conditional consent of the DBE. This is outlined in the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure (2021), the School Standards and Framework Act (1998) and all subsequent revisions to legislation relating to academies.

The DBE receives no public funding in order to facilitate academy conversions. With the increasing demands that are placed upon us, the DBE took the decision to levy a charge against each conversion from the conversion grant awarded to the school by the DfE in order to contribute to the costs involved. Whilst costs incurred from one conversion to another will vary, the DBE took the view to have a standard charging structure rather than basing anything on a full cost recovery basis.

Working with diocesan colleagues and particularly in our local partnership with the Diocese of Leeds, the structure of contributions will be as follows:

- Conversion of a Church school into an existing Church MAT - £2000
- Any rebrokerage of an existing academy into an existing Church MAT - £1500
- Creation of a new Church MAT - £2500 (plus £2000 for each school)
- Reconstitution of a current community MAT to a Church MAT - £1500 (plus £2000 for each school)
- If any MAT should cease to exist and needed to be dissolved, this would incur a charge of £1500.

All of the above do not include legal fees incurred as a result of conversion. These will be continue to be the responsibility of the individual Church school and MAT and undertakings with the diocesan lawyers will be sought in the usual way.

Invoices are issued following receipt of the Academy Order from the DfE and if a school decided over time not to convert, a charge would still be made. The levy charged will form part of the conditional consent letter counter signed by the Char of Governors at the converting school.

January 2020