

# CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Calverley Church of England (Voluntary Controlled)  
Primary School

Proposal to seek a change of category to  
**VOLUNTARY AIDED**

Published by the Governing Body  
( 9 November 2012 )

## **The background**

The educational landscape is changing and the school needs to be prepared for all eventualities. The demise of the Local Authorities means that in the future services currently provided by the LA will have to be externally sourced. To save money the school may wish to enter into trusts or clusters with other schools in order to share resources etc. Therefore we need to position ourselves so we can move forward, when the time comes, to access to as wide a range of options as possible.

Currently we have Voluntary Controlled status and would not have full rights in any trust we entered into. If we adopt Voluntary Aided status we would have full rights in any trust, either with local schools or with other Diocesan schools.

## **The reasons for change**

We believe that a change in category would be good for the children's education, good for the school and good for the community.

In summary the changes would lead to:

1. Potential access to a significant building fund held by the Diocese for school improvements, important in the light of the current economic climate.
2. a strengthened partnership with the church.
3. improved provision for RE teaching and learning.
4. greater independence for the Governing Body, including responsibility for admissions.

The three main reasons are outlined below in more detail.

### **1. To improve the school buildings and facilities for our children**

Our devolved capital, the pot of money available for building improvements, has been reduced by 80%, and could disappear completely under new funding arrangements. The Local Authority no longer has funding available. As an Aided school the Governors would be able to apply to the Diocesan Board of Education for additional funds to pay for building projects. The Governing Body have ambitious plans to improve the facilities in school including replacing the aged portacabin on the playground with a double modular building with toilet, so Yr 6 can be taught in 2 small classes as well as Yr 5. In the longer term extending the building is envisaged. These, and any other future projects, are more likely to be possible with access to Church funds as an Aided school.

### **2. To secure the historic link between St Wilfrid's Church and Calverley CE Primary School**

We are fortunate in being located next to the parish church. It is the Governing Body's view that this distinctiveness should be reflected in the school's status. Our successful church school inspections reflect the close working relationship between the church and the school. The current school

leadership are very supportive of the church school ethos which would be enhanced by becoming a Voluntary Aided school.

### **3. Improve the provision for Religious Education**

The last inspection by the National Society (SIAS) confirmed that Calverley CE Primary School is a 'good school with many outstanding features'. The Governing Body agrees with this but is seeking opportunities to enhance learning and teaching in Religious Education. This includes the teaching of all major World Faiths, moral and cultural issues and opportunities for spiritual reflection. As an Aided school the Governors would have responsibility for monitoring RE teaching which is a specific priority. Aided Status would make available increased support from the Diocese and compulsory inspections. The Governors believe that increased accountability and support would improve learning and teaching.

*Therefore the Governing Body believe that the future of Calverley CE Primary School should be as a Voluntary Aided school*

#### **Impact on Stakeholders**

The change of status would:

- 1. increase the independence of the school**
- 2. offer more options for the future**
- 3. strengthen the partnership with the church**

Some elements of the schools work will become the direct responsibility of the Governing Body. This increased independence is in line with the current government's views on greater autonomy for schools.

#### **Ethos**

Parents at present often comment on how much they value the Christian ethos of the school. It has been highly praised in recent inspections, and by visitors to the school. A change to Aided category would help to make this ethos more secure into the future.

#### **The National Curriculum**

All the requirements of the National Curriculum still apply in a Voluntary Aided school; therefore there would be no changes in the general curriculum of the school. We would continue to work towards high standards and achievement across school.

#### **Inclusion**

Calverley CE School currently serves local children of Christian Faith, other Faiths and of no Faith. It would continue to do so.

#### **Staffing**

The Governing Body would become the employer of all the staff. **The terms, conditions and continuity of the current staff would be unaffected.** All existing staff have a guarantee of job

security during the transition and will have the same employees rights as they have now. In future the Governing Body would be able to use provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to ensure that new teaching staff would be as committed to the support of the ethos of a Church school as those currently employed at the school.

## **Religious Education**

The Diocese of Ripon and Leeds has produced a Religious Education Syllabus for use in Voluntary Aided Schools. The use of this will ensure that Religious Education reflects the church character of the school but that there is continuity with the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus.

## **Collective worship**

The collective worship of the school already reflects the Church of England foundation of our school and therefore there would be no changes in content.

## **Governing Body**

A new instrument of government would come into force giving a majority of places to church nominees.

In the table below you can see how the composition of the Governing Body would change:

<b>Currently – 12 Governors</b>	<b>As an Aided School – 10 Governors</b>
<b>2 Local Authority Governor</b>	<b>1 Local Authority Governor</b>
<b>2 Staff Governors</b>	<b>2 Staff Governors</b>
<b>5 Parent Governors – elected</b>	<b>1 Parent Governor – 1 elected</b>
<b>3 Foundation Governors</b>	<b>6 Foundation Governors (3 eligible as Parent Governors)</b>

You can see that as an Aided school the Governing Body would be made up by a majority of Foundation Governors appointed by the Church after local nomination. The Church as already indicated that it would be very pleased to appoint and support the current Governors for the sake of continuity at the school.

## **Admissions**

At present Leeds as Local Authority is responsible for admissions to the school. Following the change of category the Governing Body would be responsible for admissions. All admissions authorities are bound by and must comply with the School Admissions and Appeals Codes and the law relating to school admissions including the duty to comply with infant class size legislation and the duty to consult periodically on its proposed admission arrangements. The Governing Body as admissions authority will liaise with the Local Authority as part of the Co-ordinated admissions scheme. The Governing Body would also assume responsibility for the presentation of admission appeals to an Independent Admission Appeal Panel. The Governing Body is committed to serving its local community and welcomes this responsibility. The admissions criteria will be decided at a later date following further consultation with parents. The Diocese may act in an advisory capacity but the Governors make the final decision.

## **Improvements to the building**

For improvements to the building the Governing Body must raise 10% of the costs through the school's building fund (this can be underwritten by support in the form of loans and grants from the Diocese). However access to funds held by the Diocesan Board of Education makes future building improvements more likely.

***Nothing that the Governing Body are proposing would in any way lower the standards of education for which Calverley CE Primary School is known, but these proposals would help the school to grow and develop in the future.***

### The process

The process of decision making and timetable for implementation is outlined below.

Date(s)	Action	Reason
June 2012	Governing Body Meeting	Consider possible change of category
July 5 2012	Governing Body Meeting	Further consider proposed change of category
November 9-21 December	Public Consultation	Present proposals to all concerned and collate views.
December 6 2012	Public Consultation Meeting	Present proposals to all concerned and collate views.
January 15 2013	Governing Body Meeting	Consider views of all parties
25 January-15 March	Public Statutory Notice	Formal Public notification period
22 April 2013	Local Authority Determination	Local Authority approve or reject proposals. If approved the Governing Body proceed to implementation informing all concerned.
September 2013	School would open as a Voluntary Aided School	

The Governing Body are following the procedures established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009).

**We want to know what you think.  
Please use this form to let us know your views.**

Please tick the box that most nearly matches your view.

1. I/We support the proposals of the Governing Body for Cathedral School to change status to Voluntary Aided.

Agree

Disagree

2. Further Questions/Comments (optional)

3. Please tick as many boxes as apply to you (optional):

My children attend the school.

My children attend other primary schools in the city.

I worship at St Wilfrid's Church

I worship at another Christian church in the city

I am a member of another faith

I am not a member of any faith community

I work in the school

When you have completed this form please return it to the school.

***Thank you for your active contribution to this important decision.***

