



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

Consultation Paper

on the Proposed Change of Category from Controlled to Aided for Aston Rowant Church of England School

This consultative paper is being published following the decision of the Governing Board of Aston Rowant CE School to seek a change of category from a Controlled School to an Aided School. The opportunity to propose such a change was made possible under THE EDUCATION (CHANGE OF CATEGORY OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2000 which came into force on 1st September 2000. Since then approximately 26 schools within the Oxford Diocese have changed status.

1. Background

When initially established all Church of England schools were “Aided”, however, following the 1944 Education Act, they became either Aided or Controlled (by the Local Authority). Governing bodies of Aided Schools have specific legal responsibilities in the areas of Employment, Admissions, Buildings, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

2. The reason for change

The Governing Board has been considering the future of the school. The Governors wish to maintain a close working relationship between the school, the local church and community, whilst continuing to work with the Local Authority. The school’s current way of working is more closely aligned with that of a voluntary aided school than voluntary controlled. The Governors also recognise that with ageing school buildings it is strategically important for the Board to have as much control and input as possible over the running of the school and the financial decisions made in particular relating to premises maintenance and management. These reasons have resulted in the Board’s view that the best interests of the pupils, parents and school would be served by Aston Rowant CE School seeking a change to the voluntary aided category. This will better represent the vision and ethos of the school.

3. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education has 285 schools, which are a mixture of Controlled, Aided and Academies. The Board recognises and welcomes all its schools as part of the Diocesan family and welcomes each Controlled School Governing Body having the opportunity under the regulations to make its own decision as to whether to propose a change of category.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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4. What would change?

- A new Instrument of Government would be drawn up and a majority of the Governing Board would be Foundation Governors.
- The Governing Board would become the employer of all staff at the school.
- The Governing Board would become the Admissions Authority for the school (currently Oxfordshire County Council). The admissions criteria would remain unchanged.
- The Governing Board would have specific financial responsibilities in relation to buildings e.g. repairs and capital development. It would need to find 10% of the cost of capital work and believes this is very achievable.
- The Governing Board would be responsible for deciding the school's policy on Religious Education and Collective Worship in relation to its Christian foundation and Trust Deed.

Explanatory Notes:

(i) Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. The Board would welcome existing governors who wished to become members of the new Governing Board.

(ii) Governing Boards of Aided Schools have clear guidance and procedures to follow in relation to all employment issues and are offered guidance and support from both the Diocesan Board and the LA.

(iii) In drawing up its Admission Policy the Governing Board of an Aided School must consult before making any changes to their policy with all the other Admission Authorities in its area. There is no appetite to make any changes currently.

(iv) Governing Boards of Aided Schools receive support, guidance and expertise from the Diocesan Board's Premises Team.

(v) The Diocesan Board of Education recommends to Aided School Governing Boards that their schools work with the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and will provide further support to Governing Boards. This reflects the Diocesan Board's positive partnership with its LAs in the field of Religious Education and its representation on Standing Advisory Conferences for Religious Education (SACREs).

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5. What would not change?

- The Governing Board believe there will be very little noticeable change in day to day operations at the school and there is no desire to make significant changes going forwards.
- Aston Rowant CE School already serves all of the children from the local community and will continue to do so.
- All the requirements of the National Curriculum still apply in a voluntary aided school; therefore, there will be no changes in the general curriculum of the school as a result of this change.

6. Timing

The Governing Body intends that a change of category can be achieved by April 2024. However, there are no specific time restraints and we will advise you when the change is effective from, subject to the outcome of the consultation.

7. Conclusion

The Governing Board in proposing a change of category welcomes the fact that it will continue to work in partnership with the Local Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education as part of the family of Church schools in the Diocese of Oxford.

8. Consultation

Staff, parents, local residents, neighbouring schools, the PCC, the Diocese of Oxford and the Local Authority are invited to respond to this consultation by completing an online form available here: <https://forms.office.com/e/w41My1hAXM>

Alternatively the text at the bottom of this document can be copied into an email and sent to the Chair of Governors at chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk.

Please submit any responses or questions regarding this proposal **by Friday 26th January 2024**. We will then publish the answers to any questions on the school website: <https://www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/>

Questions can also be addressed to:

The Chair of Governors, c/o Aston Rowant Church of England School, School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire, OX49 5SU or via email to: chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

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To log your response via email please copy and paste the following text into an email together with your responses and send to chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk Please tick the box that most nearly matches your view.

1. I think that Aston Rowant CE School should become a voluntary aided school.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

2. Do you have any further questions?

- I have no further questions regarding the change in status
- I have the following questions regarding the proposed change in status

3. I am interested in this project because: (Please tick as many boxes as apply to you)

- I live in the area served by the school.
- I have children attending the school.
- I work in the school.
- I use the community facilities in the school.
- I worship in the local church.
- My children attend other schools.
- Other (please specify)

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