



**LDBS Memorandum of Understanding
with
Veritas Educational Trust**

1st September 2017

Trust commitment

Christian Distinctiveness where there are constituent Church of England Schools

1. The Trust will maintain and develop the religious character of any Church of England school in the Trust.
2. The name of any school within the Trust should not be changed unless agreed with the Members and the LDBS.
3. That Collective Worship and Religious Education will follow the principles and practices of the Church of England (in CofE schools) and be guided by the Diocese of London and the National Society.
4. The Chief Executive should be a practising Christian (of a denomination belonging to the Churches together in Britain and Ireland) or committed to giving active and practical support to the Christian ethos and Anglican traditions of worship.
5. The Trust continues to be committed to the wider family of church schools.
6. The Trust will work in support of other schools (specific detail to be agreed for each academy).
7. Section 48 inspections shall continue in consultation with the LDBS.

Governance

8. The LDBS will be a member of the Academy Trust and will also nominate at least one director to the Trust Board but normally no more than one sixth of the Board.
9. The provisions of the Articles concerning the composition of the membership of the Trust and of the Trust Board are approved by the LDBS.
10. The Members will cooperate so as to ensure that the Articles will be amended if necessary so as to accord with best practice for the composition of the Trust and its local governing bodies.

11. The Trustees have a duty to the LDBS and the Bishop of London to uphold the object of the Trust and to have regard to any advice issued by the LDBS.

12. The Trust accords advisory rights to the LDBS on the appointment of the Chief Executive, Principals of constituent academies, chaplains and other members of the Executive team where appropriate.

13. If in the reasonable judgement of the LDBS a constituent academy is likely to become a cause for concern, the Trust will agree an action plan with the LDBS and the Members and meet the costs of implementing such plan.

14. Resources and buildings will not be used for any activity contrary to the Christian ethos.

Admissions

15. The Trust agrees to consult with the LDBS on its admissions policy for constituent academies and on any subsequent changes will take cognisance of LDBS Guidance on admissions.

Legal and financial responsibilities

16. The Trust will share its educational, financial and buildings maintenance data and plans with the LDBS annually.

17. Erection of new buildings and significant alterations to buildings require the agreement of the owner and if LDBS is not the owner, the Trust will seek the support of the LDBS for the capital investment.

18. Any subletting of Trust premises which requires the approval of the Department for Education will require the support of the LDBS whether or not it is the owner of the site concerned.

19. The Trust has responsibility to maintain the buildings and grounds in good repair for the present and the future pupils.

20. The Trust will seek and take note of the advice of the Members and the LDBS before incorporating any additional schools into the Trust.

LDBS Commitment

Christian Distinctiveness where there are constituent Church of England Schools

1. The LDBS will continue to support the development of a strong Christian ethos in all Church of England schools.

2. The LDBS and the Diocese of London will provide guidance and support for the Collective Worship and Religious Education offered by schools.
3. The LDBS will support schools in the appointment of practising Christians (of a denomination belonging to the Churches together in Britain and Ireland) as Principals of Church Schools or of candidates committed to giving active and practical support to the Christian ethos and Anglican traditions of worship.
4. The LDBS will hold regular meetings for Schools to encourage the transfer of knowledge and best practice In Collective Worship and RE across the Diocese.
5. The LDBS will provide a cadre of high quality Section 48 inspectors.
6. The LDBS will encourage the provision of school chaplains and the training of clergy to support academies.

Governance

7. The LDBS will continue to provide high quality support to schools as set out in the LDBS Core Service to Schools in the provision of high quality education and the pursuit of excellence.
8. The LDBS will continue to hold regular meetings for Schools to encourage the transfer of knowledge and best practice in school improvement.
9. The LDBS will advise the Chair of the Trust Board and the Chief Executive if there are indications that a constituent school may become a cause of concern.

Admissions

10. The LDBS will provide advice and guidance on admissions policies as and when required.

Legal and Financial Responsibilities

11. Educational, Financial and Building information provided to the LDBS will remain confidential and will not be provided to third parties without prior agreement of the Trust.
12. The LDBS will not unreasonably withhold permission for any constituent Church of England School to improve, maintain or sublet parts of the school site.
13. The LDBS will not unreasonably withhold permission for Church of England schools outside the Diocese to join the Trust and for their oversight to remain with the local diocese.

Inigo Woolf
Chief Executive,
London Diocesan Board for Schools

Christine Gentle
Chairman
Veritas Educational Trust