

A Growth Strategy For Abbey MAT 2016-20



2015-16 Current Position

(from Strategic Plan 2016 -17 - taken from original presentation to DBE 2013-4)

“Abbey MAT Board’s vision is to develop a high performing Multi Academy Trust that delivers the very best educational experience for pupils from 3 - 19. This document sets out how we will grow, develop, support and improve our Academies across the wide and diverse geographical area of the Diocese of Leeds, with a clear focus on raising standards, encouraging innovation and strengthening the ethos of the Trust to ensure that we have a positive impact on all the young people within the Trust”

“We believe the development of the Academies will further strengthen the established good practice in operation across each individual Academy. It will:

- have a positive effect on the young people in the geographical area of Diocese of Leeds, through the development of a family of provision, from age 3 to 19, aimed at providing outstanding education and training, within an engaged community;”



2015-16 Current Position

In 2015 and again in 2016, we had indicated to DfE that we would grow to approximately 12 schools by 2018-19 but that each would be taken on a 'case by case' basis and that we would not approach or actively seek schools to join us.

The Education and Adoption Act 2016 and the White Paper "Educational Excellence Everywhere 2016" has changed the DfE's position on Academisation and we need to respond to this as a MAT within the Diocese of Leeds.



2015-16 Current Position

The following agreed principles apply to growth:

- That it is planned over a number of years on a 'Case by Case' basis.
- That we grow Central Services in School Improvement/Standards and 'Back Office' to meet the needs of schools as they join us so that the MAT remains sustainable.
- That we grow with good and outstanding schools to ensure we have capacity for continued progress and improvement
- That we ensure that primary provision growth is a priority and that secondary growth does not exceed primary
- That we have a 'morale imperative' to support schools where there is greatest need (in terms of places as well as Ofsted category), providing we have capacity to do so.
- That our growth is sustainable, measured and according to a shared commitment to the vision and ethos of the MAT



Suggested Position for 2016 - 20 and beyond:

- There is recognition that we may need to grow quicker to respond to the Diocesan need to accommodate a growth in academies, both converters and sponsored. We will hold a series of information events inviting schools within an identified area.
- Abbey MAT becomes 'the MAT of choice' for schools within and on the boundaries of Leeds LA, with no school more than 1 hour's drive from the central office in LS16.
- That as we grow, we look to 'cluster' primary schools in geographical areas with no more than 6 primaries in each cluster.
- That we grow by approximately 3-5 schools per year, dependent on current need for and capacity to deliver support.
- That no more than 2 RI and 1 SM secondary school is within the MAT at any one time.
- That we look to develop appropriate additional places through expansion and 'Free Schools' bids. This includes a commitment to developing and sustaining Sixth Form provision.
- Our principles for growth will still apply.

