



2 July 2019

**STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP AND TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIES: THE WAY FORWARD**

Mindful of the Vision Statement of the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service, “Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news”, the Trustees of the Diocese of Lancaster wish to make the following statement regarding Academies:

We recognise that, in the present education climate, our family of Catholic schools is ever more in need of support through deeper collaboration. The more our schools are integrated into their parish communities and their local Catholic networks, the better they are able to flourish, serve the Gospel and succeed as excellent academic institutions. The status of Academy within a multi-academy trust can facilitate deeper collaboration and enable schools to fulfil their mission within the Church and our society.

Therefore:

- We remove the moratorium on our schools exploring Academy status.
- We encourage and invite groups of schools to apply to the Trustees through the Education Service to become Catholic Academies according to the published Academy Strategy.
- This application should be motivated by an intention to strengthen the Catholic vision of education of the school, and a willingness to enter into a deeper collaboration with the diocesan family of schools.
- We recognise the freedom of governing bodies in this decision. However, we expect all schools to be mindful of their fraternal responsibility to other Catholic schools, and be prepared to do what is necessary to support any school that receives a ‘forced’ Academy Order.

All applications and any request for further information should be addressed to the Education Service.

+Paul Swarbrick  
Bishop of Lancaster