



LIVING OUT GOD'S TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

29th March 2022

Dear Friends

I write to you today following the release of the Schools' White Paper - 'Opportunity for All' (which can be found [here](#)); it is the next step in the Government's stated intent for their national 'levelling up' agenda. There is also a companion document, 'The case for a fully trust led system', which can be found [here](#). The White Paper is broad in its scope, from the length of the school day to evidenced informed professional practice; from a single multi academy trust system to targeted support to underpin the ambition for every child to be on track in terms of reading, writing and maths. At its core it seeks to secure deep and purposeful collaboration between schools through a trust structure which provides an improved quality of education for all.

Here at the DBE we are deeply aware of the extent and depth of the pressures faced by school leaders every day; the pandemic continues to bring such significant challenge to every aspect of your school leadership. We are also aware of the way in which over the last two years, you have worked tirelessly to ensure the very best experience of school, virtual and actual, for every child. You continue at this time to expend great energy and commitment to achieve a 'new normal' – often this work being without national recognition. I know it is easy for me to say, but I hope you know just how much your colleagues at the Board of Education value all you are doing, every day.

The White Paper, brings with it a range of challenges and opportunities and whilst the DBE truly values the opportunities it offers we are minded of your own well-being and the scale of the agenda which it sets out; not least the establishment of a single system of multi academy trusts. I wanted therefore to reassure you of DBE support - not just in these next months but in the years ahead as we work with Church schools to consider the consequences of the White Paper, which will see government legislation this summer. Our overwhelming hope is to work with you, to support you and ensure that in the system change the White Paper represents, Church schools further flourish, from the tiniest primary setting to the largest secondary school, rural and urban.

We have gained huge experience in this last 7 years; we have learned with school leaders and are confident the multi academy trust landscape, built across our diocese, 21 Trusts and over 50% of schools within these Trusts cherished for their church school character, places us all in a strong position to deal with the expectations of the White Paper. We are also playing a key role in the development of the academies strategy of the national Education Office of the Church of England.

For those schools not yet within a MAT family, I stress again, as you begin to consider White Paper implications, please feel able to draw us into your conversation; we are here to support. The initial contact should be Dan Roberts dan.roberts@salisbury.anglican.org, although of course any of the team would be pleased to speak with you.

You may receive a number of 'White Paper' communications, from RSC, news channels and other interested stakeholders. I hope in receiving this communication, it underscores for you that your leadership is valued, respected and supported. The DBE is here to walk alongside as you take next steps within the ever changing professional landscape in which you lead.

Our best wishes and our prayers are with you as this term draws towards Easter.

Kind regards,

Joy

Canon Joy Tubbs MBE

Diocesan Director of Education

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