

# *St. Michael's CE Primary School*

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Academisation Presentation

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024



## *Why Academise?*

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Sustainability of support and accountability

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Future proofing the quality of Education

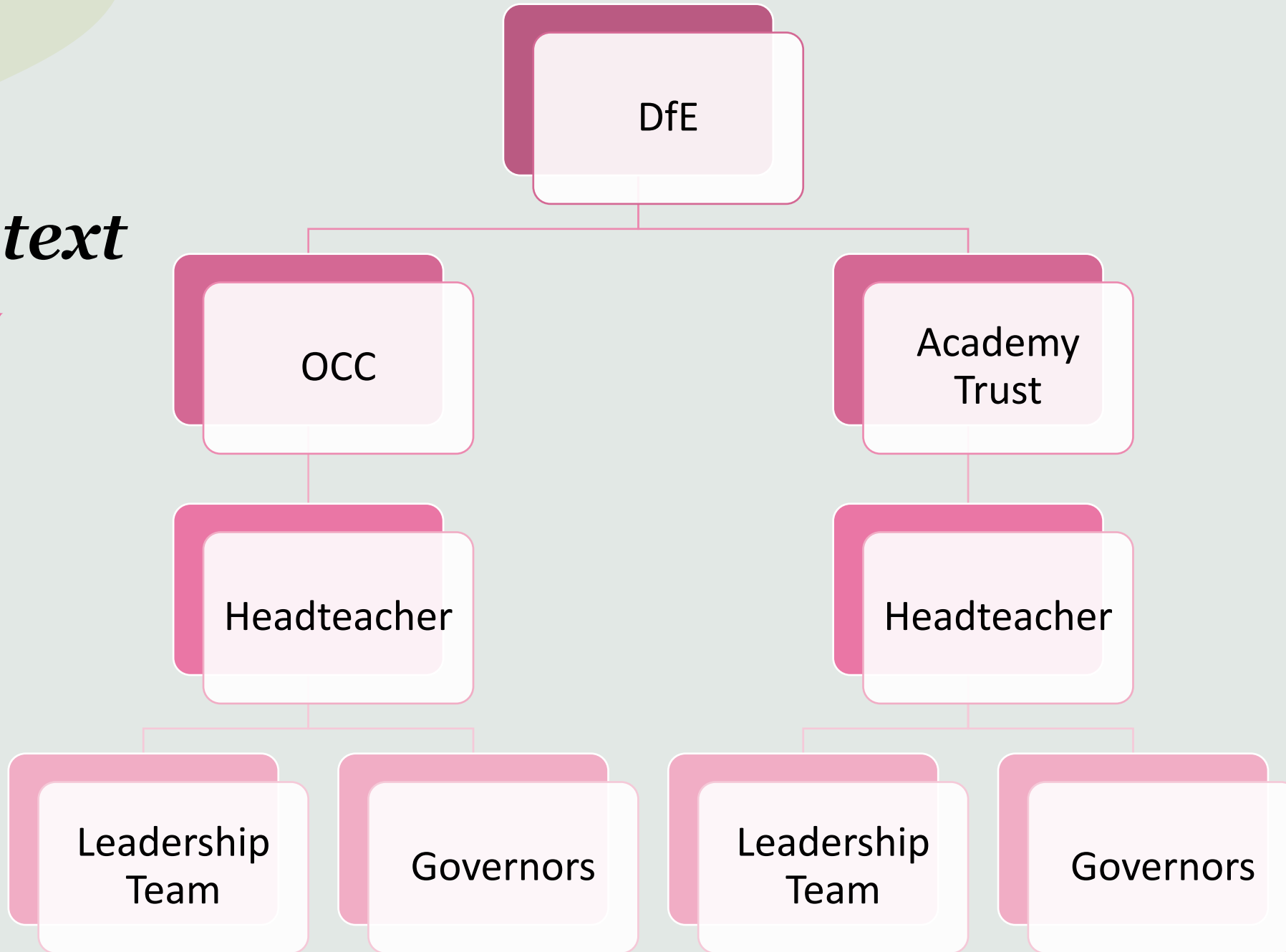
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Access to additional grants and funding eg for the MUGA

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Better purchasing and procurement rates eg for energy suppliers etc

# Context



# *Rationale*

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At St Michael's we have created a school and curriculum which is built on and for the children and families in the community we serve. When choosing an academy trust, it was imperative that we selected a trust that reflects this, and which allows us to retain the same or similar level of autonomy that we currently have.

As a school we have always been future focussed and believe in always striving to be a leader rather than a follower. As such we created a clear rationale for considering a move to academy status.

Improve outcomes  
and opportunities  
for all children

Reduction in support  
and services from  
Oxfordshire County  
Council

All Political parties  
are signed up to and  
agree with the  
Schools Bill

Create more  
accessible and  
sustainable CPD for  
staff

# *Improve outcomes and opportunities for all children*

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Improved, increased and more rigorous School Improvement



Improved CPD for staff



Collaborative working



More opportunities for cross school and cross phase working



Better access to effective practice at all levels



More access to support for children - eg Play Therapy, Music therapy

# *Reduction in support and services from Oxfordshire County Council*

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01

Maintained schools are like islands in a vast sea

02

Two School Improvement Officers for all schools in Oxfordshire

03

School Improvement partners are covering upwards of 17 schools

04

1 visit per year

05

Services are increasingly stretched

# *Selection of Trusts*

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When selecting trusts to engage with we had a clear set of criteria.

These included:



Locality



Number of  
secondary schools



Ethos and values



Financial support



Central Team  
support



Quality of  
Education in other  
schools in the Trust

# *Trusts*

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Several local Trusts were considered during the process.

They were discounted on the following reasons:

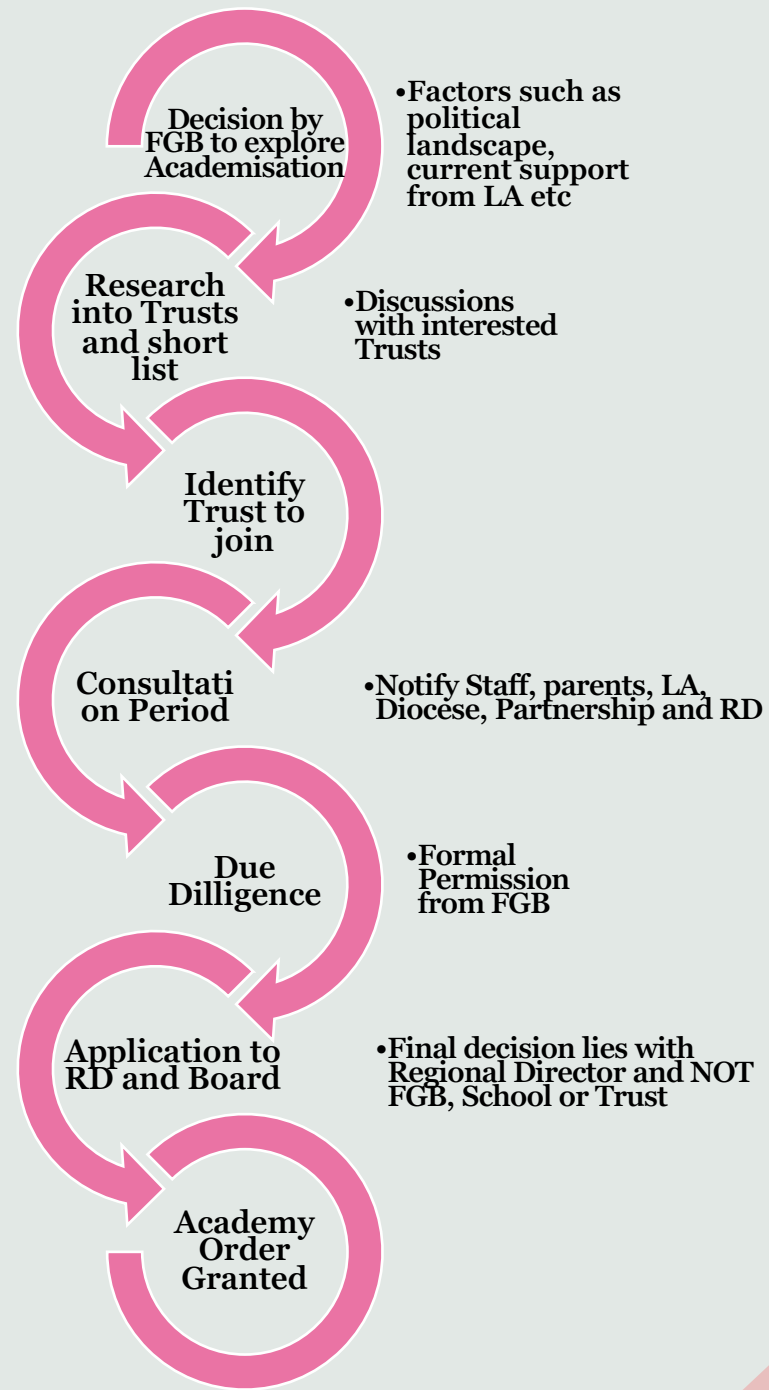
- Geographical area
- Alignment with ethos, vision and values
- Rate of growth
- OFSTED rating of schools in the Trust
- Number of Secondary Schools in the Trust





# *What is the process?*

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# *Who are Abingdon Learning Trust?*

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01

Local Trust based  
in Abingdon

02

Two Secondary  
Schools - John  
Mason and  
Fitzharrys

03

One Primary  
School - Rush  
Common

04

Small Executive  
Team

05

All schools in the  
Trust have recently  
received a "Good"  
OFSTED rating



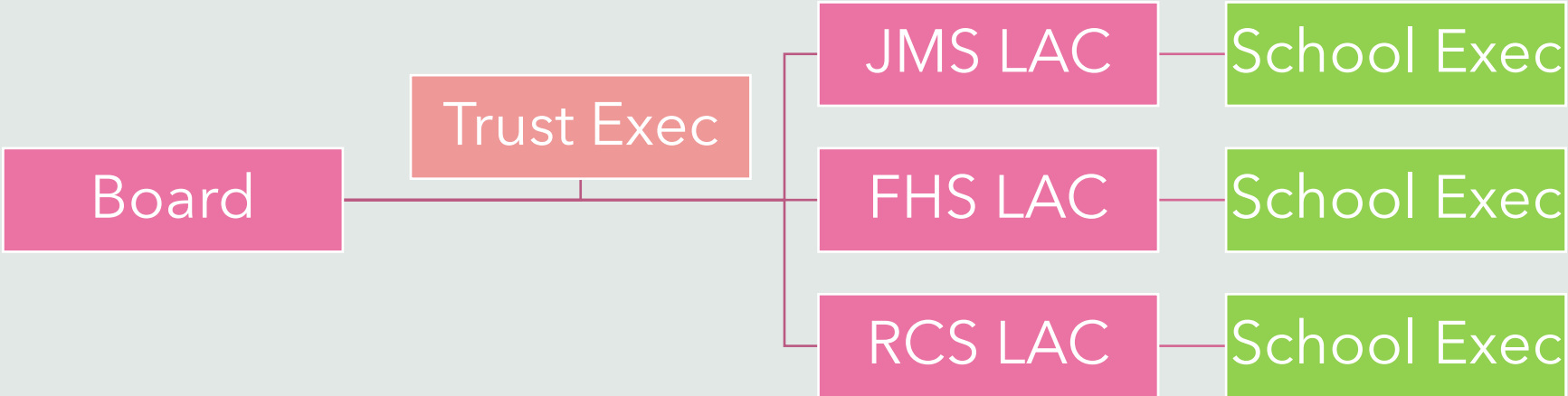
We will nurture curiosity,  
ambition, resilience and courage;  
support a deep-rooted  
compassion for others and our  
world, to enable choices and  
opportunities for a happy and  
successful life.



Local decision-making by local  
governors and headteachers

Local responsibility with whole  
trust accountability.

# Governance and Executive



# *School Improvement*

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Each year – a joint meeting to agree one of four levels of support based on the school’s own self-evaluation and a desk review against the best nationally.

**Core** – for schools demonstrating a high level of success and strong leadership for improvement, through **Core +** to **Enhanced Support** to **Intensive support**.

Director of Education works closely with the Headteacher. Access to £50k SI budget

# *Finances and budgets*

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All funds that are generated through pupil numbers, PPG etc are allocated to the school, less a top slice

The HT and senior leaders agree the priorities for their school, working with COO

Budget 'sign off' is the Trust Board, local governors can be involved

Resilience available as part of a larger organisation - loans, investment of reserve, bids for additional funds/grants

## *As a Trust.....*

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We focus on supporting our schools to achieve great educational outcomes; with finances that are secure and sustainable over time.....

.....by ensuring that schools have strong governance and highly effective leadership.





## *As a Trust.....*

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We add value to our communities, for example:

Investing in accommodation for Preschool to ensure high quality places available for community

Resurfacing sports facilities for school and community use

Leading on carbon reduction through our net zero ambitions

'Sponsoring' SI activity with Abingdon Partnership of Schools.

# *Responsibilities*

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## **School**

- Day to day running of the school
- Curriculum
- Budget
- Staffing
- Safeguarding
- Implementation of policies
- Health and Safety
- School specific policies
- Vision for the future

## **Abingdon Learning Trust**

- School Improvement Support
- Accountability to the Trust and RSD
- Finance
- Estates
- Overarching policies

# *Questions*

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