



## **ACADEMY CONVERSION COSTS**

### **BASED ON TYPICAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL**

We have summarised the anticipated costs of academy conversion based on our experience of assisting our Church Schools who have completed the conversion process.

Governors should be aware that there are three main areas which have cost implications for Church Schools which are set out below. Currently, the Department of Education provide a grant of £25K to cover these costs and we anticipate that all of these costs can be met within this grant.

### **DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Our experience of assisting Church schools convert to academy status has indicated that there are significant costs arising from the time the Board needs to spend to support our schools and to ensure that the proper safeguards are in place to ensure the continuance of their religious character.

**The DBE will charge schools a fixed fee of £2500 (ex VAT) to cover our costs which will be invoiced after the signing and issue of the Funding Agreement which includes the grant to schools.**

The type of guidance, advice and support from the DBE officer is outlined below:

- Dissemination and explanation of the nationally emerging Government Academy policy affecting Church Schools
- Exploration and distillation of the potential options for schools preparing for conversion to Academies
- General Legal advice in respect of the options for Church Schools arising from the emerging Government school reforms
- Organization of conferences, workshops and meeting regarding the evolving academy agenda to support school leaders
- Organization of the full process to facilitate the conversion to academy status
- Technical expertise and support to schools through the conversion process
- Access to other resources and advice through the Diocese

- Liaison over the necessary approvals
- Work required in our capacity as Trustees of the school site
- Dealing with land issues

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Many schools are also finding it helpful to retain the services of a project manager. This reduces the work load on Governors and school staff and it can reduce the work (and therefore the charge) of the solicitors.

Typical Project Management services reduce the overall amount of legal fees as it alleviates much of the coordination of the conversion which would otherwise have to be done by lawyers. A project manager will be able to provide support to secure a successful and smooth transition to Academy conversion.

If you are interested in this service we can discuss this further.

## **LEGAL ADVICE**

It is essential to have legal advice on the process of conversion. Schools can seek legal advice from any legal firm.

Legal services are summarised below:

- Consents
- Academy Trust set up
- Funding Agreement and annexures
- Land transfer arrangements
- Supplemental Agreement
- General advice, co-ordination and ongoing support