ODBST enables school leaders to focus on the local needs of their school.

ODBST is currently formed of six schools, located in the Buckingham, Risborough and Chesham areas.

Finance & Audit

- Individual school bank accounts enable local monitoring of cashflow and flexibility with purchasing.
- Schools use the same financial IT system for budgeting and financial monitoring.
- Annual external and internal audit requirements are centrally managed.
- A network for school business managers.
- Central team supports schools with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

HR

- Support from our HR professional who knows each school and is able to provide consistent advice and guidance on all aspects of HR (policies, recruitment, restructures, disciplinary, appraisal etc).
- Trust (through its centrally appointed payroll provider) issue employment contracts, at the request of schools who lead on local recruitment.
- Membership of the Teacher Pension Scheme and Local Government Pension Scheme ensures staff retain pension benefits.

Data Protection

- ODBST has one registration with the ICO on behalf of all its schools and one central Data Protection Officer.
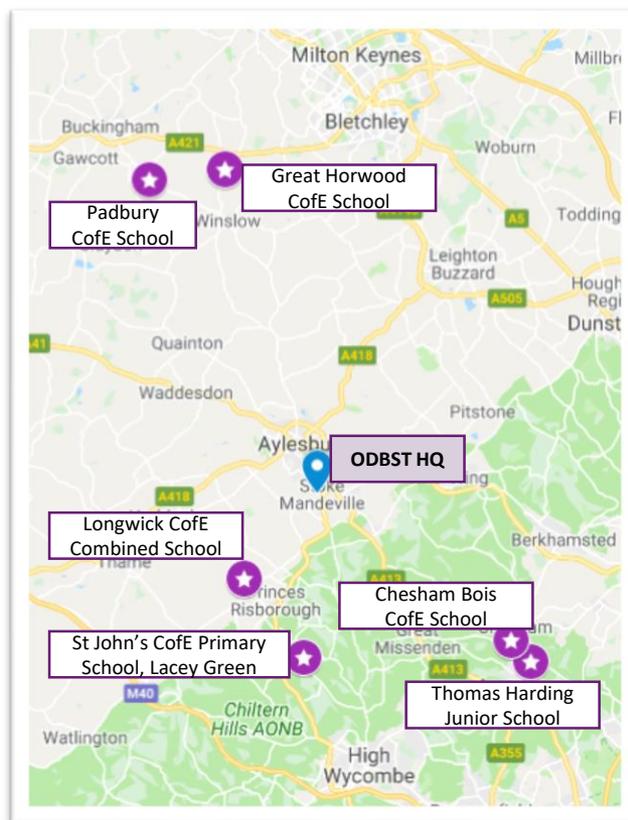
Health and Safety

- Our professional Health & Safety Competent Advisor engages regularly with schools to assure their legal duties, ensure the school site is safe and secure, and undertake annual condition inspection of PE, outdoor play and DT or ceramic equipment.

Admissions

- Delegated role of Admissions Authority to each Local Governing Body, enables greater community involvement in admissions should this be desired.
- Support for School Admissions and Appeals is provided by the Diocese.

Capital Projects

- Large-scale capital projects are funded through School Condition Allocation (an allowance managed by the Diocese on behalf of the Trust) rather than through an annual application process into the DfE.
- Devolved Formula Capital continues to be managed by the Local Governing Body

Map showing: Great Horwood CofE School, Padbury CofE School, ODBST HQ, Longwick CofE Combined School, Chesham Bois CofE School, St John's CofE Primary School, Lacey Green, Thomas Harding Junior School

For more information see our website: ww.odbst.org.uk

The Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust,
The Office, Moat Farm, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks. HP22 5UZ

Oxford Diocesan
BUCKS SCHOOLS TRUST

Empowering our unique schools to excel

Rt Rev Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Continuing the Church's long held view of the importance of education for all, the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST) was set up in 2017 to serve schools (whether Church school or not) across the Buckingham episcopal area with an ambition to academise or join a MAT.

We know this is a big decision, with schools rightly concerned about their long term futures. At the heart of ODBST there is a core commitment to service, local community and being fully inclusive. These values are evidenced through mandatory Local Governing Bodies, a standardised set of systems that support schools in the Trust and collaborative partnership working. With these elements we can empower local leaders to make local decisions for the benefit of their own communities.

At the heart of the academy agenda is the desire to ensure schools continue to improve the outcomes for all pupils. We believe our model of local autonomy that is both supported and challenged by peers and trust colleagues, will secure improvement for our schools and encourage resilience.

We have an effective central team to guide schools through the responsibilities that being an academy (part of a registered charity) brings. If you are considering the move to become an academy, this information sheet explains how we work, our values and ethos. We'd love to hear from you.

David Cousins
Chief Executive Officer

ODBST is committed to providing high quality school effectiveness support through a partnership working model, brokering specialist support where required and facilitating school to school support.

Partnership Working
- As an academy within the ODBST family, schools leaders are supported and challenged to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children.
- All schools use the same assessment software enabling central and local monitoring and trust wide benchmarking.
- Each school is categorised on an annual basis, reviewing progress, agreeing key priorities for schools, CPD priorities for staff and shaping the level of hands on support provided by the Trust centrally or from our schools.
- Headteacher performance management is carried out by the Trust for those schools that require improvement or which are in category;
- Each term a new area of focus is reviewed, providing structure to the regular meetings between school leadership teams and trust officers.
- Schools are supported to prepare for Ofsted Inspections, during the inspection and with post inspection feedback and Statements of Action.
- Schools have access to unlimited 1:1 telephone and email advice from our experienced School Effectiveness colleagues.

Diocesan Support
- All ODBST academies also enjoy the benefits of having a named Link Advisor from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, providing support with SIAMs Inspection, RE and Collective Worship (where appropriate), governance training and advice, and access to the "*Excellence in…*" training series.

Governor Support
- We hold termly briefings to support agenda setting for LGB meetings.
- Policies are either approved by Trustees for local adoption, or Guidance and Model Policies are provided for schools to tailor locally.
- Schools and LGB Members have direct access to the Governance Services Officer for governance queries.
- Regular and tailored training for governors, with access to the Oxford Diocese's *Excellence in Governance* Training
- A cloud based system used by all schools enables governors to access papers for meetings, easing communication within the trust and providing Trust wide policies.

Empowering our unique schools to excel

| Excellence in Education | Empowerment | Inclusivity | Community | Service |