

Jane Borgeaud
Diocesan Director of Education
Education
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25th June 2024

Dear [Name of MAT CEO],

The Gloucester Diocesan Board of Education Policy on the Academisation of C of E Schools, published in December 2021, and available on our website, includes a requirement that when a school academises, they pay the DBE's legal fees and a fee for work carried out by DBE officers where necessary.

As you will be aware, schools converting voluntarily receive a £25000 grant from the DfE to contribute towards expenses incurred by the school, with the sponsor trust for sponsored academies typically receiving a larger grant, which incorporates the £25000 grant to cover these expenses.

Up until now, despite the availability of DfE funding to support schools with these costs, the Diocese of Gloucester has charged for legal fees but has absorbed the cost of the work of our officers.

However, with increasing financial pressures facing the GDBE and a forecast acceleration in the pace of academisations, we now find ourselves in the position where the cost of officer time can no longer be absorbed without detriment to our provision of service to schools and MATs.

We therefore need to move in line with other Dioceses and begin to charge for these costs. We plan to bring these charges in in a phased manner. While the first phase will be substantially under our full costs, this will enable Trusts and schools to have a phased introduction to these charges to better support their budget planning.

The determination of the level of charging is based on the academic year in which the school received Conditional Consent from the GDBE as outlined in the table below, regardless of the actual academisation date.

Academic Year in which Conditional Consent is Received	Charge for Work Associated with Academisation by DBE Officers
2023/24	No Charge
2024/25	£2500
2025/26	£4500

Please note that:

- No charge will be made for SATs, in recognition of the fact that they have already received their voluntary convertor grant, and spent it in relation to their conversion to a SAT. It is recognised in this decision that work already done at the point of becoming a SAT is likely to reduce demands on officer time.

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- A very small number of schools will already have received a voluntary convertor grant, but not yet converted and are therefore not eligible for a further grant. These schools will be charged since the school has not previously incurred the costs of academisation.

While I recognise that you will not welcome these changes, the Board very much hope you understand why this is necessary, in order not to undermine the ability of the Board and its officers to effectively meet our responsibilities in supporting our schools.

This come with my thanks for all you are doing and for our continued partnership.

Best wishes



Jane Borgeaud
Diocesan Director for Education
Diocese of Gloucester.

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