Vicariate for Education

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8th December 2025

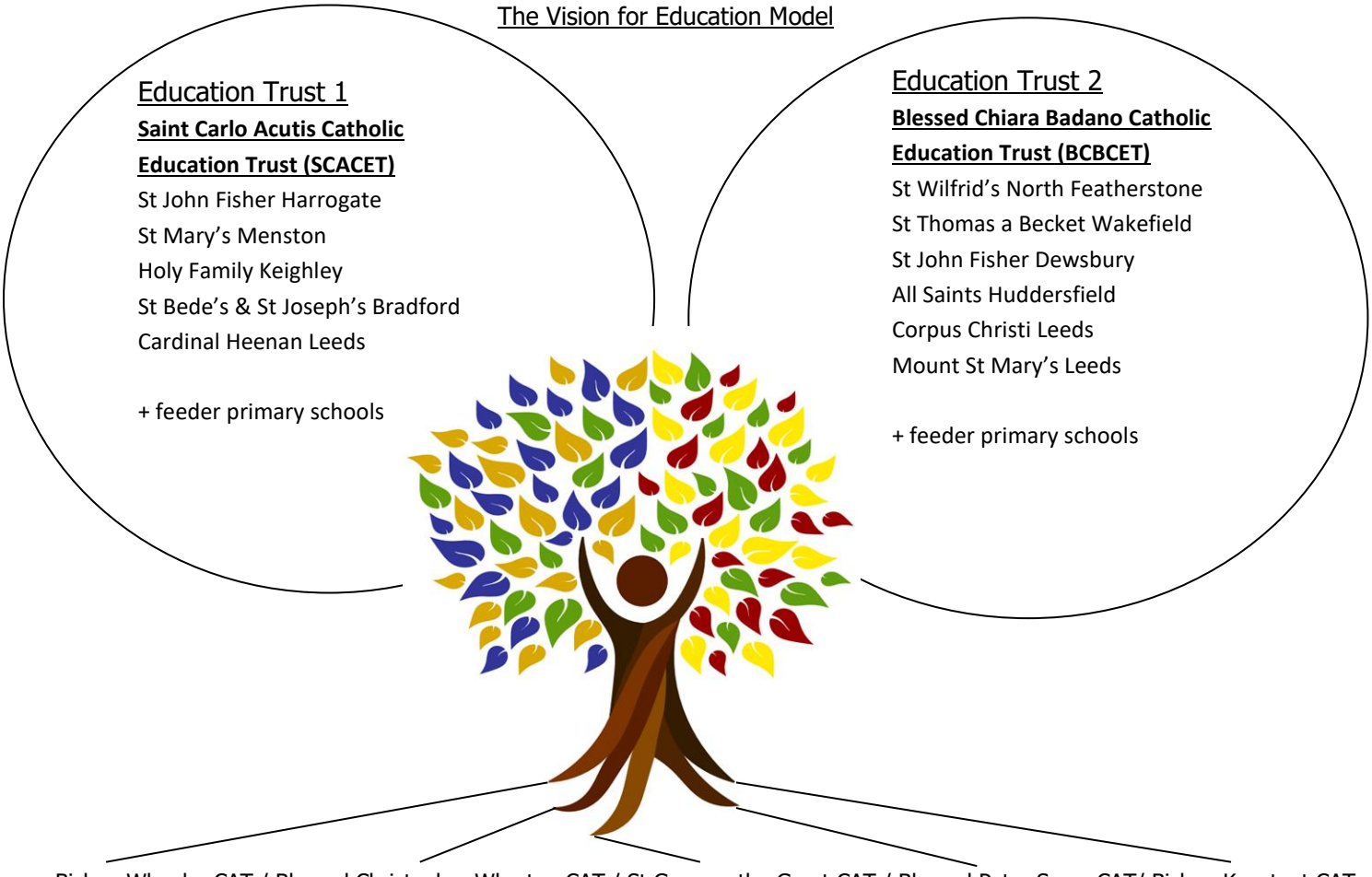
A Vision for Education: Building and Sustaining Catholic Education in the Diocese of Leeds

In the attached letter, Bishop Marcus clearly outlines his Vision for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Leeds.

As Director of Education, I have been working with the Bishop, the Diocesan Trustees, the Vicariate for Education, the Department for Education (DfE), our schools and our Trusts during the last 18 months to realise this Vision of two larger Catholic Education Trusts (CETs).

Below is a brief outline of our two CETs together with some frequently asked questions, particularly relevant to parents and families.

The Vision for Education Model



Bishop Wheeler CAT / Blessed Christopher Wharton CAT / St Gregory the Great CAT / Blessed Peter Snow CAT/ Bishop Konstant CAT

In practical everyday terms, there should be very few observable changes for pupils and parents. All schools will maintain their identity, uniform, name, mission and vision.

Being part of a larger CET will create even stronger collaborative partnerships with other catholic schools and ensure strategic and structural solidarity and subsidiarity

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What will be the benefits for pupils?

- The ability to further develop the Catholic Life and Mission of our diocesan schools through the increased strength of larger CETs.
- The opportunity to prioritise and strengthen high-quality Catholic education which will provide greater capacity for (age) 11-19 strategy development, (age) 3-19 school improvement, increased financial viability and overall consistency.
- Greater wealth of expertise and good practice that will ensure there is consistency and equity of experience and professional challenge and support across the schools.
- Greater opportunity to access shared and centralised inclusion expertise and services (e.g.: educational psychologist, attendance, behaviour, counselling, SEND).
- A larger CET will be able to create a much greater range of opportunities to pupils, both educationally and through enrichment activities and events.
- Highly effective school improvement models with experienced primary, secondary, special educational needs and child welfare specialists will ensure provision is the best it can be, while a sharp focus on meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils, and those with additional needs and special talents, will ensure inspirational learning for all.

Will pupils be affected?

Pupils will not notice any immediate difference: they will be in the same uniform; in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. The Trusts will provide a strong Catholic education so that every pupil may flourish.

In time pupils may notice further improvements in the way that they learn, resulting from the greater training opportunities given to staff to innovate and to improve pupils' learning.

Will term and holiday dates or the schools' day change?

All schools will work in line with government statutory expectations, so there are no plans to change the times of the school day. Any future changes to the school day would be subject to consultation with parents and carers. Each school, in liaison with the relevant Trust, will determine their term dates and training days.

Will there be any changes to Admissions Policies?

No, there are no planned changes to the current admission arrangements which are based on the Diocesan schools' model admissions policy. It should be stressed that the admissions policy must have regard to the national School Admissions Code.

Will feeder school criteria change for any primary to secondary admissions or post-16 choices?

There are no planned changes to the current arrangements.

How will the merger raise attainment, especially for disadvantaged pupils?

Each school has a lead for disadvantaged pupils and bringing them together into a larger organisation will enable Trusts to share learning and expertise, derive greater benefits from our scale, and provide all children (whether disadvantaged or not) with more opportunities.

Will schools change their names?

No, there are no plans to change the names of the schools as a result of the merger. Many of the schools have a long and rich history; all have a reputation and value within their parishes and local communities. There will continue to be a strong commitment to retain the identity and individuality (often represented through their name) of each school within the CETs.

Will our smaller schools lose their individuality?

The identity and ethos of each school will not be changed as a result of the mergers. We celebrate the fact that each school has its own individuality; this is important and will be maintained.

In summary, this is a most important development for our diocesan trusts and schools to secure their best possible future. We are blessed with the very hard work that our staff, governors, pupils and parents do for our wonderful schools, and I sincerely thank them.

The Vicariate for Education will continue to work with the Diocesan Trustees, the DfE and the existing Trust boards, schools and staff during the next two to three years to ensure a well-planned smooth transfer of all our existing academies into the two CETs.

Please send any comments and questions you may have to this email address: education.trusts@dioceseofleeds.org.uk The deadline for receiving these is **19th January 2026**.

Yours sincerely

Kieron Flood

Director of Education