



10 December 2018

Dear parents/carers, staff and other stakeholders of Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School

### **Proposal for Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School to join NEAT**

We are delighted that the Governing Body of ARFS is consulting with its stakeholders to become part of our trust. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you why we feel this would be a really positive decision for both the school and NEAT.

NEAT is a “mixed” multi academy trust, or MAT. That means that we already have a Church of England school as one of our family of schools (Central Walker Church of England Primary School). We were one of the first mixed MATs in the country and we are very proud of that fact.

As a mixed MAT, our core principle is to work with schools who share our common purpose and vision regardless of their religious character and we are really excited by the prospect of another Church school joining NEAT. This provides an opportunity to further strengthen our partnership with the Newcastle Diocese Education Board and provide both Church schools with opportunities to work together and build on their existing strong practice.

Furthermore, NEAT has a teaching school within the MAT. Through the teaching school, we have already supported ARFS for almost a year and this work has strengthened the school. It has enabled us to develop positive relationships at all levels and highlighted the shared common purpose and vision of both the NEAT family of schools and ARFS.

An underlying principle of how NEAT operates is to ensure that each of our schools is locally relevant and maintains its own ethos and vision that meets the needs of all learners and the local community it serves. With that in mind, we are keen to grow our MAT through partnerships with other Newcastle schools. We have an excellent relationship with the City Council and are keen for this to continue and grow. If ARFS were to join us, we feel this will provide an excellent opportunity to utilise the existing strengths we have within our MAT and develop further strengths and expertise through this new relationship.

We firmly believe that this partnership will be of greatest benefit to the children of ARFS as the trust has the capacity to identify, develop and embed opportunities that a stand-alone school could not.

Enclosed with this letter are a range of documents that we hope provide information that will help you make an informed response to the consultation exercise being carried out by the Governing Body of ARFS:

- **All About NEAT** – factual information about our trust
- **Joining NEAT** – the approach we take with any school that may wish to join our trust
- **Frequently asked questions** for Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School – these have been developed specifically for this proposal and consultation exercise.

Registered Office: Heaton Centre, Trewitt Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5DY  
Tel: 0191 2284090 - E-mail: [admin@neat.org.uk](mailto:admin@neat.org.uk) - Website: [www.neat.org.uk](http://www.neat.org.uk)

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The Governing Body and Headteacher of ARFS have also kindly invited representatives from NEAT to attend the consultation meetings in early January so that you can hear more about our trust and ask any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully



Debi Bailey  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Encs.