

Governance arrangements

The Dominic Barberi Multi Academy Company (DBMAC), established in 2013 is a developing Multi Academy Company (MAC) within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, with six primary schools and one school, St Gregory the Great, taking pupils from 4 -19. It is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England (Company number 08453966). The Founder Member and relevant legal entity with significant control is the Barberi and Newman Trust Company (Company number 08183803). All Directors give a written undertaking to the Founder Member to confirm that they recognise the legal duty to ensure that the religious character of the academies is preserved and developed and to uphold the **object**.

The DBMAC's **object** is to advance education in the UK for the public benefit, in particular, by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing Catholic schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum and conducted in accordance with Canon Law and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In this way, in addition to developing an understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith, we contribute to the formation of culture and our society.

Q: What are the guiding principles for the DBMAC and its academies?

We believe that our schools are more effective when they work in partnership than when they stand alone and therefore, seek to learn from and share with each other so that we spread best practice effectively.

We provide stimulating and purposeful opportunities for all of our children and young people to enable them to reach their intellectual, physical, spiritual and moral potential in a safe and caring environment. We aim to help those in our care to develop a sense of their self-worth, spiritual integrity and guiding principles that will remain with them throughout their lives. We aim to foster in them, a love of learning and a desire to demonstrate their very best.

We aim to develop outstanding leadership at all levels that delivers the best possible achievement whilst in harmony with our mission and values. We expect our staff to consistently challenge themselves and to create new ways to inspire our students and their colleagues. We will provide opportunities for continuing professional development to support our staff and ensure that they are always fit for purpose.

We invite and welcome positive participation from parents and guardians of our students and commit to listen, respond and communicate regularly on their progress and well-being.

We welcome support from our parishes and the Catholic Church community and we strive to make a positive contribution to the wider communities served by the DBMAC academies.

Q: Does the Barberi and Newman Trust run the academies?

A: The Barberi and Newman Trust Company appoints the Directors of the DBMAC as a whole (Foundation Directors) and each academy has its own group of governors, also appointed by the Barberi and Newman Trust known as Academy Representatives. In addition, there are up to two “Parent Directors” elected by Parents and up to two “Staff Directors”, elected by staff, and up to two “Principal Directors” elected by colleague Principals.

Q: How does the Board carry out its work?

A: The Directors are responsible for developing the overarching vision and strategy and for monitoring how the academies are run to ensure the best outcomes for pupils.

The business of the company is managed by the Board of Directors who have delegated some responsibilities to four sub-committees:-

- the Standards and Achievement Committee
- the Finance, Resources and Staffing Committee
- the Audit Committee
- the Catholicity and Ethos Committee

In addition, the Board has set up separate Committees for each Academy which are accountable to the Board with specific responsibilities for in depth monitoring of performance and constructive challenge of Principals with the aim of securing the best possible outcomes for pupils.

Q: How are the academies financed?

A: The DBMAC has a Master Funding Agreement and each Academy operates its devolved budget. The DBMAC follows the requirements of the ESFA Academies Financial Handbook, the Charity Commission’s regulations for charity accounts and Companies House requirements. The DBMAC’s accounts are a consolidation of the seven academies in the company. The statutory accounts are published annually. The DBMAC operates two Pension schemes: the Teachers’ Pension scheme and the Local Government Pension scheme. The DBMAC has an Accounting Officer supported by a Chief Financial and Business Officer; the

Finance, Resources & Staffing Committee and the Audit Committee have responsibility for financial oversight of the company.