



Conversion of St. Matthew's  
Catholic Primary School  
into the  
Blessed Christopher Wharton  
Catholic Academy Trust.  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

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# Strategic Leadership

- High quality strategic leadership planning is underpinned by the ability to look ahead, prepare for and anticipate change.
  - This allows successful schools to survive the various external factors and changes that have continued to impact upon educational establishments.
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# Academies

- Formally group schools under one legal organisation – the Catholic Academy Trust
  - Are independent state schools responsible to the Bishop and Secretary of State for Education
  - Local authorities are responsible for co-ordinated admissions, safeguarding and SEN
  - Take responsibility for their staff, land and buildings and can look for new ways of working together to benefit the children
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# Advantages

- A shared vision for Catholic Academy Trust schools whilst retaining each school's individual characteristics ethos and mission
  - Greater protection for individual schools in a rapidly changing political, financial and educational climate
  - Opportunities to share expertise, facilities and resources from specialist teachers across a trust that will benefit all
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# Advantages

- Formalised school partnership allowing joint working together to provide the best quality of provision for the benefit of local children and young people
  - Improved use of individual school's finances through economies of scale offered by the bulk acquisition of services and resources
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# History 2012-2020

- 2012 - Bishop Arthur gave permission for schools in the Diocese of Leeds to convert to academies
- Condition – Mission must be to strengthen Catholic education and promote the distinctive nature of Catholic academies
- Vision to provide the best possible Catholic Education for all of our pupils, ensuring that our partnership is strategic, structured and resilient, forged from a common vision of serving our local communities.
- Diocesan Trustee determined model of academies – Five diocesan trusts



# Diocesan Trust Model

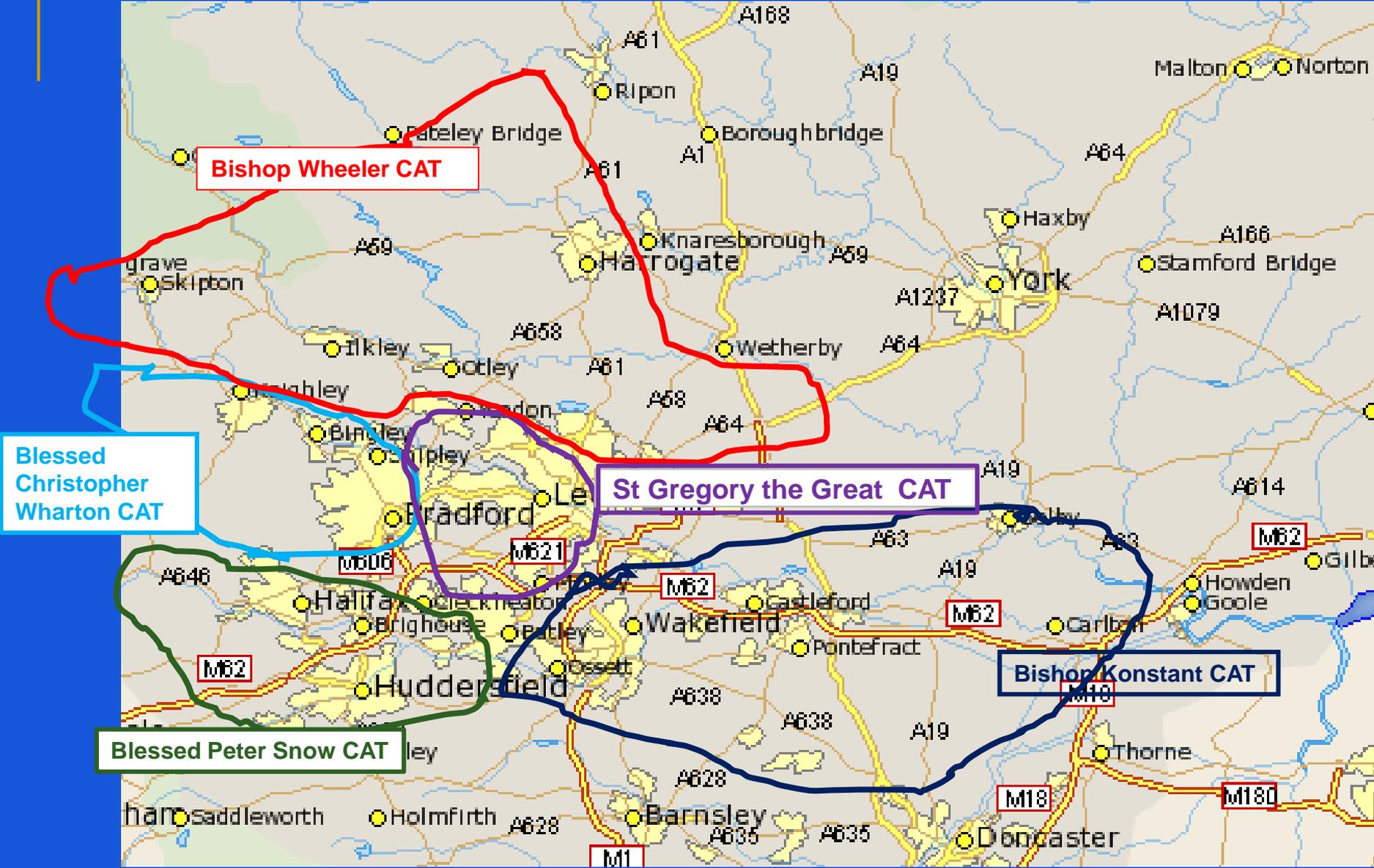
**Bishop Marcus has endorsed the future pathway with his requirement for all schools to become part of a family Bishop's Vision Statement February 2018**

The strength of any family is in the quality of its relationships. This is evident when its members, respecting the dignity of each, work together for the good of one another and in the service of the common good. This too will be our strength in the years ahead if, as a diocesan family of schools, we are able to build relationships, forge solidarity and develop a collaborative framework of family groups of schools that is resilient to present and future challenges, and provides us with the confidence to take advantage of new opportunities.



# Diocesan Trust Model 5 Trusts

- Offer an experience that is education from 3-19 or older
- Support families with children who are in primary and secondary schools
- More than one high school in each MAT with the feeder primary schools
- Support the church's social teaching
- Over time all schools will be givers and takers
- 'Smoothing the turbulence'
- All 5 trusts working together



**Bishop Wheeler CAT**

**Blessed Christopher Wharton CAT**

**St Gregory the Great CAT**

**Bishop Konstant CAT**

**Blessed Peter Snow CAT**

# The Landscape 2019/20



- **Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust- Wakefield**
- **Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust-North Leeds/ North Yorkshire**
- **Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust-Bradford/Keighley**
- **Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust-Calderdale/Kirklees**
- **St Gregory the Great Catholic Academy Trust-Leeds**



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# Opportunities

- ‘Our children, not my children’
  - Very best practice is shared
  - Teaching school in the MAT
  - Establish the services the schools need
  - Immediate support for headteachers
  - Opportunities for staff development/progression
  - Curriculum development
  - Improved staff recruitment
  - Economies of scale
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# St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy.

