

Embsay C of E (VC) Primary School
Pasture Road
Embsay
Skipton, BD23 6RH

Registered Charity No: 1047224
Phone/Fax: 01756 793 426
Email: admin@embsay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Acting Headteacher: Miss Georgina Hodgson

Friday, 23 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL OF EMBSAY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO JOIN A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND FOR THE SCHOOL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS

We're writing to let you know that the Governing Body of Embsay Church of England Primary School is considering an important step for our school's future: converting to academy status and joining the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (YCST). This letter marks the start of a formal consultation period, and we would really value your thoughts and feedback.

Why Are We Considering This?

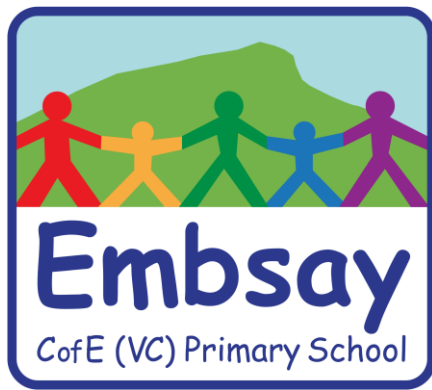
Over the past few years, we have been carefully exploring the landscape of Church of England Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), looking at how different trusts operate and what they could offer our school. This has been a thoughtful and deliberate process, guided by our commitment to doing what's best for our pupils, staff, and wider community.

YCST has supported our school in recent months with curriculum development and leadership support, and this partnership has already brought clear benefits to our staff and pupils. We believe that joining a strong MAT like YCST would provide long-term advantages for our whole school community—especially as Local Authority support continues to decline and with increasing pressures on school finances. With the previous government's 2022 White Paper setting out the ambition for all schools to be part of a MAT by 2030, and many local schools having already joined a MAT, we feel it's important to take a proactive approach and choose a trust that aligns with our ethos and values.

Shared Vision and Ethos

One of the key reasons we are considering joining YCST is the strong alignment between their vision and values and our own. At Embsay, our Christian ethos underpins everything we do—we aim to nurture confident, compassionate, and curious learners who are inspired to make a positive difference in the world. YCST shares this commitment to inclusive, values-driven education rooted in Christian principles. Their focus on developing the whole child, supporting staff wellbeing, and fostering strong community links mirrors our own priorities and aspirations.





Embsay C of E (VC) Primary School
Pasture Road
Embsay
Skipton, BD23 6RH

Registered Charity No: 1047224
Phone/Fax: 01756 793 426
Email: admin@embsay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Acting Headteacher: Miss Georgina Hodgson

Why Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust?

YCST is a well-established Church of England trust that includes nine successful primary and secondary schools, judged good or outstanding by Ofsted within the Harrogate and Craven area. The existing academies in the trust to date are:

- St. Aidan's Church of England High School
- Pannal Primary School
- St Peter's Church of England Primary School
- Skipton Parish Church CE Primary School
- Hampsthwaite Church of England Primary School
- Oatlands Infant School
- North Rigton Church of England Primary School
- All Saints Church of England Primary School
- Richard Taylor Church of England School

To find out more about YCST you can log on to their website <https://www.yorkshirecauseway.co.uk/> or join us at our meeting highlighted below.

By joining YCST, we believe Embsay School would benefit from:

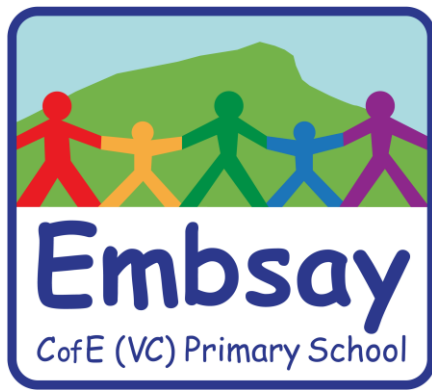
- Greater collaboration and sharing of expertise between schools
- More professional development opportunities for our staff
- Stronger support for school leadership and governance
- Continued focus on our Christian ethos and identity
- Additional opportunities for our students including for those with SEND needs.

What Would Change?

If the proposal goes ahead, Embsay School would become an academy and legally part of YCST. However, it's important to reassure you that:

- The school will keep its name, uniform, and identity
- Our Christian values and ethos will remain at the heart of everything we do
- There will be no changes to admissions or staffing as a result of this conversion





Embsay C of E (VC) Primary School
Pasture Road
Embsay
Skipton, BD23 6RH

Registered Charity No: 1047224
Phone/Fax: 01756 793 426
Email: admin@embsay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Acting Headteacher: Miss Georgina Hodgson

Consultation

Governors are now entering the consultation phase and would like to consult with parents, carers, staff, pupils and the wider community on the proposal for Embsay School to convert to academy status and join YCST.

The consultation period will run from June 6th to 11th July. During this time, we welcome your questions, comments, and feedback.

How Can You Share Your Views?

We invite parents to attend a consultation meeting on

9th July 2025 – 6pm
Embsay School

Please RSVP if you are able to attend on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/PbgWPKNRD5>

We'll be holding a session at the school to provide an opportunity to ask questions about academy status and how this will affect the school. Representatives from the Governing Body, school leadership and YCST will be available to talk to you and tell you more about the trust and answer questions you have. You will also be able to register your comments, queries and any thoughts on opportunities or concerns.

We have also prepared and enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document to help answer some of the questions we anticipate you may have.

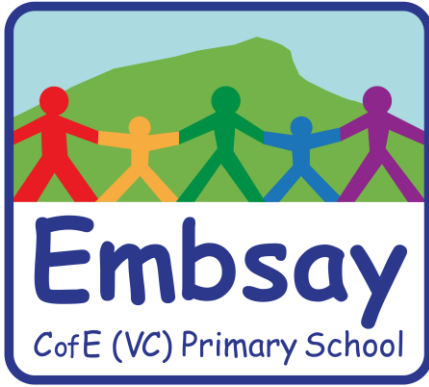
You can share your views and ask questions by

- Asking at any of our meetings
- Emailing the school office (admin@embsay.n-yorks.sch.uk) with the subject "Academy Consultation".
- Via the academisation online survey. A link to the questionnaire will be found on our website after half term or for immediate questions you may have, please use the following link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/syMX5Z8mKG>

What Happens Next?

Once the consultation ends, the Governing Body will carefully consider all feedback before making a final decision about whether to proceed with the application to convert to academy status and join YCST. The Governing Body will report on the findings of the consultation at a meeting in July and this will be made available online to all stakeholders via our school website.





Embsay C of E (VC) Primary School
Pasture Road
Embsay
Skipton, BD23 6RH

Registered Charity No: 1047224
Phone/Fax: 01756 793 426
Email: admin@embsay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Acting Headteacher: Miss Georgina Hodgson

We are committed to ensuring Embsay School continues to thrive and serve our children and community with excellence. We believe this proposal offers an exciting opportunity to strengthen our school for the future.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and we look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. E. Hodgson".

Georgina Hodgson
Acting Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Atherton".

Chris Atherton
Chair of Governors

Enclosed:

- o Academy consultation FAQs

