

22 Nov. 10

---

## **Lee Bolton Monier-Williams solicitors opens the door for 7,500 Church schools to convert to academies**

Law firm Lee Bolton Monier-Williams ("LBMW") has settled with the Department for Education ("DfE") a suite of model documents that provide the means by which church schools wishing to convert to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 may do so with the support of their trustees and Dioceses.

LBMW's expanding team, headed by Robert Cottingham, Howard Dellar and David Whittington represented the National Society, the main educational advisory body for schools and dioceses of the Church of England. They collaborated with Winckworth Sherwood, who represented the Catholic Education Service, the support body for Catholic schools and their dioceses, to develop the documents.

Robert Cottingham, LBMW's academies team commented:

*"The Government's academies programme presents Church of England schools and dioceses with an opportunity, but also a challenge - namely how to best prepare for a potential education landscape outside Local Authority control. Robust academy models for church school converters with dioceses geared up for providing effective support is vital.*

*"The settlement of a bespoke suite of documentation with the DfE required tremendous effort, but is an important step on the way to realising this goal and opens the door for church schools who wish to do so to convert."*

LBMW is one of the country's leading law firms in the education sector. It provides advice to all Church of England Dioceses through the 'National Society Legal Advice Scheme' and acts for 16 Church of England Diocesan Boards of Education and for many schools across the country. Since 2005 the firm's academies team has handled numerous academy projects. It successfully negotiated the conversion on 1 September of one of the first schools to change under the 2010 Act and is currently acting for 20 schools going down the road to conversion with many more in the pipeline.

Ends.

### **Notes to editors**

- LBMW is a successful legal practice in the heart of Westminster. They provide legal services to a broad spectrum of clients and combine a contemporary practice with continuity and tradition.

- The firm is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, no. 473237.
- [www.lbmw.com](http://www.lbmw.com)

**For more information**

Please contact Lis Lewis-Jones or Natasha Stonebridge on 01527 832 205 or email [lis@liquidpr.co.uk](mailto:lis@liquidpr.co.uk) or [natasha@liquidpr.co.uk](mailto:natasha@liquidpr.co.uk)