

Consultation to form a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Boards of Asterdale Primary, Beaufort Primary, Borrow Wood Primary, Cherry Tree Hill Primary, Oakwood Junior, Portway Junior and Springfield Primary Schools, all of which are located in Derby City, have agreed to consult on a proposal to convert to an academy and form a local Multi Academy Trust (MAT) in October 2018 (dependent on DFE schedules). The schools will be equal partners within the MAT.

As part of the decision making process, the Governing Boards are committed to undertaking full consultation with their stakeholders and will take their views into account before any final decision is made.

In forming a MAT, the over-riding concerns of governors are to ensure that our school continues to provide the best possible standard of education and care for our children. With this in mind, your views are important to us and we would like to hear your thoughts.

Key points of forming a Multi-Academy Trust

- Our school will retain its character and will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now with no changes to the school uniform, school name, school times, holiday pattern and admission policy. Most of the changes will be behind the scenes.
- The MAT organisation does not affect your choice of school for your child. We will continue to work closely with all our local schools, as we do now. Transition between schools will be unaffected by the proposed changes.
- A Headteacher and Governing Board will continue to lead our school on a daily basis as they do now and parents will continue to be represented on the Governing Board.
- The MAT arrangements will share some services across the schools which will help them be more efficient and make sure that funding is focused on teaching, learning and support for children.

Academy status is becoming more common and the Government and many local authorities have made clear their intention to encourage/support all schools to become academies, and in particular for schools to organise themselves within groups, i.e. MATs. As their budgets are reduced, local authorities are also reducing the services that they have available to schools. Making this change now means that we can choose how we want our school to develop. As local schools, we will continue to have good working relationships with Derby City Council.

Forming a MAT will:

- Provide opportunities for each of our schools to access support and expertise from the other schools within the MAT. Each of the seven schools brings significant strengths to the Trust, which we have already identified. These can be shared and used to coach and mentor colleagues in the other schools, where it would be beneficial to children and staff, building capacity across all of our schools.
- Help us to develop the highest quality of leadership and management and the highest quality of teaching and learning
- Give us greater freedoms in developing the school curriculum to make sure that it is personalised to the needs of our pupils, ensuring high expectation and total conviction that all pupils can succeed whatever their circumstances, background or previous level of attainment
- Provide economic benefits such as centralised services and economies of scale

- Increase the flexibility of the school budget and funds which gives us more freedom to spend it to best meet the priorities of the school and pupils
- Provide the opportunity to establish succession planning programmes and in doing so, retaining good staff who might otherwise move on

Governors believe that academy status within a MAT is the best way to support the school in continuing to develop and improve, and that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and this will impact on children’s achievement.

What we would like you to do:

We would like to know what you think of our plans, so we invite you to take part in our public consultation which will run between Monday 23rd April and Friday 25th May. You can do this by:

- Sending an email to consultation@oakwoodj.derby.sch.uk or submitting responses in writing to the school office.
- Reading the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which have been published on the school’s website. Paper copies are also available from the school office.
- Attending one of the **Parent/Community Consultation Meetings** being held on the dates below. This will address any issues that have raised, and give the opportunity for further discussion to take place. **Please could you inform the school office if you wish to attend one of the meetings, so that we have an indication of numbers.**

Date	Audience	Time	Venue
Wednesday 23 rd May 2018	Open to all Parents and wider communities from the 7 schools	2pm	Derby University
Wednesday 23 rd May 2018	Open to all Parents and wider communities from the 7 schools	6:30pm	Derby University

We hope that you will contribute your views to the consultation. If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Paul Appleton, David Blackwell, Steve Darby, Carla Dewberry, Zoe Fletcher, Karen Forrest, Karen Puszczynska (Head teachers)