


Academy Trust Status Consultation



Aiming High-Succeeding Together

Purpose of meeting

- To clarify what an Academy is
 - To advise parents of the Governors' discussions regarding Academy status
 - To discuss the advantages and potential risks regarding the transfer
 - To seek your views as part of a consultation process
- 

What is an academy ?

- Academies are state-funded schools that are not accountable to the Local Authority
- A school can be a stand alone academy or part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) involving a number of schools. Academies have greater autonomy and choice with regards to finance and curriculum
- Only large primary schools rated as outstanding and secondary schools will in the future be allowed to form MATs
- It is the expectation of the Department for Education that all schools should ultimately and a recent white paper, Education, Excellence, Everywhere, sees MATs as the key delivery mechanism for this

Forming our own MAT would be our favoured option

How other partner schools might be chosen?


Schools joining us would be carefully evaluated

- Criteria for choosing partner schools
 - Primary
 - Community ethos & values
 - Commitment to excellence
 - Mutual benefit for our pupils and staff
- Carry out due diligence on potential partner schools
 - Pupil progress and attainment
 - Quality of teaching & learning
 - Financial sustainability
 - Robust asset management
 - Governance & leadership
- Discuss plans with The Woodcote Community

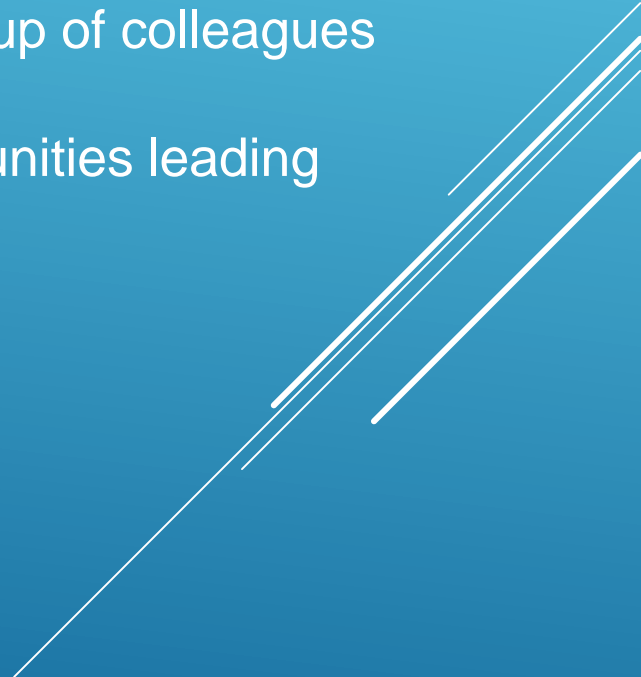
Governor Discussions

- Governors have discussed Academy status on and off for a number of years
- In 2016 the announcement by the chancellor prompted us to revisit the discussion
- Over 2015-2016 we established significant partnerships with other schools which had a positive impact on staff development
- Having seen the benefits of working closely with another school governors favour the establishment of a MAT rather than a stand alone academy
- Following an evaluation of the impact of this and from their discussions, governors agreed to consult parents and staff on conversion

What does this mean for the school ?

- Our land and property would be leased to the Trust by the Local Authority
 - Our staff would be directly employed by the Trust and not the LA
 - We would have greater freedoms to determine what we teach
 - We would have greater autonomy over budget and all aspects of how the school operates
- 

Some of the potential benefits

- Richer curriculum and learning opportunities for pupils.
 - Ability to develop innovative cross-school projects, activities and experiences
 - Greater autonomy to focus on the needs of our pupils rather than complying with LA needs
 - Easier access to specialist teaching and learning as well as specialist support through direct purchasing and pooling resources
 - Staff and governors developing and sharing best practice with a larger group of colleagues with wider range of experience and skills
 - Enhanced professional development for staff and increased career opportunities leading to greater retention
 - More effective use of budgets through group economies of scale
 - Access to new revenue and capital funding
- 

Possible questions

Will conversion mean:

- Compulsory pairing with weaker schools?
- Changing our name or uniform?
- Sponsorship from another company or academy?
- Changing our admissions policy?
- Sweeping changes to the curriculum?
- Changing levels of SEN support for my child?
- Staff being forced to work in other schools?
- Losing focus on Woodcote and its core values?

The school will continue to look, feel and be the way it is now but we will have greater control over how we maintain and develop this

Next steps

Consultation closes October 19th 2016

The governing Board will meet to carefully consider all of the responses from the consultation. It will then decide whether to proceed with applying to become an academy

If the Governing Board make a decision to proceed with conversion, an application will be submitted to the DfE by mid November 2016 with a view to conversion by April 2017

Consider seeking DfE approval to sponsor the conversion of a school to an academy



Questions and How to Respond



A conversion consultation page will be posted on the website and comments can be posted on an online comments form

