



Raynville Primary School
Cross Aston Grove, Bramley, Leeds. LS13 2TQ
Tel: 0113 2579590
Fax: 0113 2555490
E-Mail: secretary@raynvilleprimaryleeds.org.uk
Website: www.raynvilleprimaryleeds.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr A Midgley

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on proposal to convert to academy status in Partnership with The Greetland Academy Trust.

This letter gives you information about our possible conversion to academy status. As a 'good' school we are in a position to choose if and when to convert to an Academy. We must consider the option to convert as part of our duty to improve the quality of education we can provide for our pupils. The Governing Body have met with a number of Multi Academy Trusts (MAT) to establish the benefits of joining a MAT.

The Greetland Academy Trust is currently a single outstanding academy who want to share their good practice with others. Joining this trust would give Raynville the opportunity to work with an outstanding school to build on our already good reputation.

We have had an initial consultation meeting with staff at the end of last year. During this half-term, there will be a consultation meeting with parents/carers. These meetings will be an opportunity for parents to come along and express your views and ask questions about conversion. The meetings for parents will take place on Tuesday 3rd October, the first is at 2:30pm and the second at 5:30pm – both will be in the KS2 hall in the main building. This decision must be taken in the interests of present and future pupils and therefore consultation with parents will begin in the new academic year.

Is this the right time to consider converting to an Academy?

Some questions you may already have:

What is an Academy?

Academies are state maintained schools free to all children. They are run separately from the local authority, and have an agreement with the Government which provides funding directly to the Academy Trust. They have to follow the same rules as all other state-funded schools over admissions, pupils with Special Educational Needs and exclusions. They are still inspected by Ofsted.

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A Multi Academy Trust is a company established to be responsible for a number of Academies. Each Academy remains a separate school, but the governors are responsible to a board of directors established for the Trust as a whole. This model is becoming more common, particularly as more primary schools seek academy status and the Government is encouraging primary schools to choose



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

this route. In this case Directors will be appointed on the basis of the skills they have and to ensure that the Board has a range of skills available.

As the multi-academy trust is a single entity, it is envisaged that schools can achieve strong collaboration and drive up standards by providing a consistent strategy and vision across schools working together.

Has the decision to convert to an Academy already been made?

No. Until the consultation has been completed and everyone's views have been obtained a decision will not be made. The Governing Body has to weigh up the pros and cons of Academy conversion.

How does the conversion process work?

Once a decision is taken to convert to academy status, the school must then go through a detailed application process with the eventual conversion being subject to the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Schools can withdraw from the application and conversion process right up until the signing of the funding agreement.

How are the children affected?

In many ways the children will not notice any immediate difference, they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. We will continue to strive for an outstanding education for all our children. However, in time the children may notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn, resulting from the greater training opportunities given to teaching staff to innovate and improve the pupils' learning.

What about the staff?

At present, all staff are employed by the Local Authority. If the School does become an Academy, all staff will automatically transfer to the new Academy Trust, on their current pay and conditions. All new staff would be employed under current national pay and conditions agreements.

Does becoming an Academy change the relationship with other schools and the community?

No. Academies must ensure that they continue to be at the heart of their community, collaborating and sharing facilities and expertise with other schools and the wider community

Would there be any changes to the admissions policy/criteria?

No. There are no plans to change the school's admission policy.

Can a child with a statement nominate an Academy as his or her school of choice?

Yes. Schools converting to Academy status can retain the admissions criteria they currently use. These arrangements and related processes must at all times comply with the School Admissions Code.

Would the name of the school change?

No. The name would remain Raynville Primary School unless we wanted to change it. Our signage and headed paper would acknowledge that we were part of a Trust.

Would the school uniform change?

No. There are no plans to change the school uniform, or our expectations that it will be worn to a high standard.

Would the term and holiday dates or the timings of the school day change?

No. We would continue to use the term dates published for Leeds. There are no plans to change the school day.

Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and exclusions change?

No. Responsibilities as an Academy in relation to SEND and exclusions will be just the same as they are now.

How can I find out more?

The best source of information on academies is the Government's own website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The Governors and Leadership Team are committed to ensuring that Raynville Primary School continues to be a good school, serving all members of the community. It is our duty to explore every opportunity to maintain and improve our already high standards. Your feedback and views really do count and we will keep you fully informed of future developments. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Andrew Midgley

Headteacher
Raynville Primary School