



Rothwell Victoria Infant School



CARE SHARE
HELP SMILE

E-mail head@rothwell-jun.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Website: www.rothwelljuniorschool.uk.org

E-mail head@rothwell-inf.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Website: www.rothwellvicinf.uk.org

14th November 2012

Dear Parent/Carer,

We believe we need to explore the possibility of converting the Rothwell Victoria Primary Learning Partnership to an Academy, as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with other local schools, and are inviting all school stakeholders to share their views on this important issue.

The landscape of education has changed and is continuing to change; we believe it is necessary to offer you the opportunity to have your say on this possibility.

The Background to Academies: Following a number of changes in Government and Local Authorities, the Department for Education (DfE) has offered schools in England and Wales the opportunity to become Academies. According to the DfE, allowing schools to become Academies will give them the freedom and flexibility to continue to drive up standards. In principle, this means more freedom for schools to define admissions policies, work with other schools, define their own curriculums and spend allocated budget in the way they choose, in order to benefit their pupils and aid progress, learning and attainment.

The change in status also requires some fundamental changes in the way the school is managed, which have a number of implications, both advantages as well as potential disadvantages. By becoming an Academy, a school, for example, no longer benefits from some of the support services provided by the Local Authority, although it is important to note that many of these have already been cut and are increasingly being reduced further.

The Background to Community working: As part of our commitment to high quality education in our community, the leaders of these local schools (ourselves, Loatlands, Wilbarston CEVA, Havelock Infant, Havelock Juniors, Rushton and Montsaye) have worked together over many years. We have shared staff training, good practice in the classroom, development of language teaching and run a number of very successful events such as the choral festival, swimming gala and student leadership meetings. Since conversion to academy status Montsaye has continued to work with ourselves, Havelock Junior and Loatlands schools to provide teaching particularly in Mathematics, Languages and ICT.

Future working together as part of a Multi-Academy Trust: The Government is encouraging all schools to apply to become academies, in order to use the new opportunities currently available. Currently Montsaye has academy status and the schools named above have already agreed to apply for academy status for their schools with the intention to join together with Montsaye in a Multi Academy Trust. We are therefore informing you that this letter is formally consulting you on the Rothwell Victoria Primary Learning Partnership's proposal to seek individual academy status in the coming months, prior to becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust with the above schools.

It is proposed that these schools enter into a joint governance arrangement in what is called a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). This is an equal partnership between academies that have made a commitment to support each other and raise educational standards across the partnership. This will provide the opportunity to work together more formally, to continue to provide high quality education across all our schools for all the age range from 0-19. We also see this as a way to further improve all our schools by working with, and learning from, each other.

We believe that the structure being suggested i.e. a board of trustees with directors having representation from each setting, respects each school's autonomy whilst satisfying the national agenda regarding accountability. Each school will retain its own Governing Body, although should a school's standards appear to be dropping or an individual school needs support then the MAT would step in to facilitate improvements.

Being a part of the MAT does not mean that your child has to attend Montsaye Academy or indeed that you will automatically be allocated a place. There will still be opportunities to exercise parental choice in this matter.

Gathering your views: Having considered all the evidence, we do believe that this change could be an opportunity that will allow us to meet the challenge to continue to raise standards in all our schools. However, when we are considering significant changes, it is our practice to take into account the views of our stakeholders before making a final decision, and this is what we are now doing. We would like to encourage you to make your views known at this time.

If you wish to respond to this consultation and ensure your views are heard, please respond by letter to the school office - marking your envelope 'Academy Consultation'. Alternatively you have the opportunity to attend a meeting to place any questions you may have to a panel of Governors from the school on 26th November at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior School hall. You are welcome to attend the meeting even if you do not have any questions. Please indicate on the slip below your intention to attend and the question(s) you wish to ask. You will find further information regarding academies and academy chains on the Department for Education website - www.education.gov.uk/academies

The consultation process will run from Wednesday 13th November until Friday 7th December 2012 after which governors will decide on a way forward. You will be informed of their decision as soon as possible after this date.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours faithfully,

MR L HURLING

Executive Headteacher

Namewill be attending the meeting about the proposed Multi Academy Trust on 26th November at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior School Hall

I would like to ask the following question(s):