



Rothwell Victoria Infant School



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13th November 2012

Dear Colleagues,

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 as part of a process of consultation.

As you will be aware the landscape of education has changed, and is continuing to change, and we believe it is necessary to offer you the opportunity to have your say on this possibility. The Governing Body appreciates that you will have concerns and questions regarding this possibility. You are invited to a meeting on 22nd November at 4 p.m. in the Infant School hall where a panel of governors will answer your questions. If they cannot be answered, further advice will be sought and if necessary a further meeting(s) will be arranged.

If you wish to respond to this consultation please attend the meeting arranged. If you have any questions it would be helpful if you could put these in writing beforehand and hand them into the school office, marking your envelope 'Academy Consultation Questions'. You are also invited to put your views on this matter in writing, marked 'Academy Conversion' for the attention of the Chair of Governors to be handed into the school office before the end consultation period.

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 successfully together over many years. We have shared staff training, good practice in the classroom, development of language teaching and run a number of 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. Montsaye already has academy status and the schools named above, apart from ourselves, have 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 schools for all the age range from 0-19. We also see this as a way to further improve our school 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.

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.

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 14th 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 on about the proposed Multi Academy Trust on 22nd November 2012 at 4:00 in the Infant School hall.

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