

Culcheth Community Primary School

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Headteacher

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23rd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on our proposal to convert into an Academy and the formal consultation process

This letter is to update you regarding our proposal to convert into an academy. The proposal is to form a Multi Academy Trust whose initial members will be Croft Community Primary School, Culcheth Community Primary school, Gorse Covert Community Primary School, Oakwood Avenue Community Primary School and Woolston Community Primary School. This letter is to notify you that our application has now been approved for the next stage of the process. This means that further due diligence will take place over the coming months and if this does not raise any serious concerns or issues then we anticipate formally converting to an academy on 1st September 2019.

Formal Consultation Process

We have put a FAQ sheet regarding academy conversion on the school website (and attached it with this letter) and we believe this sheet will answer a number of questions you may have. We have also set up a dedicated email address for you to send any questions you may have (that may not be covered in the FAQ sheet). The address is academy@culchethprimary.co.uk

We are choosing to make this proposal as a positive way forward for our schools which will enable us to continue to improve the opportunities we provide for our children. This is a new multi academy trust and involves the schools named above; there is no external sponsor.

Academy status is becoming more common both nationally and in Warrington and the Government continues to encourage schools to become academies and in particular for primary schools to become academies in groups. As its budget is reduced, the local authority is also reducing the services that have been available to schools. Making this change now means that we can choose how we want our school to develop. Converting to Academy status within this Multi Academy Trust will:

- Give us greater freedoms in developing the school curriculum to make sure that it is personalised to the needs of our students to ensure they are inspired and motivated to succeed.
- Enable us to work together more effectively to improve the quality of teaching and learning, particularly as the national arrangements change, for example in the way in which children are assessed.
- Formalise the existing links between our schools and enable us to share best practice and expertise, for example in governance, estates management, bid writing – e.g. for money to make improvements to school buildings and financial planning.
- Enable us to support each other as support from the local authority reduces.
- Increase the flexibility of use of our school budget and funds which are currently allocated to the local authority to give us more freedom to spend it to best meet the priorities of the school and our pupils.



Whilst we see real benefits in working more closely together, any changes are likely to be behind the scenes. You and your children will see little visible difference if we do make the decision to become an academy. The name of the school will stay the same; the uniform will not change and we will not change term dates or the school's admissions policies. All children and all members of staff will continue to be part of each school as they are now.

The Governors believe that Academy status within this potential Multi Academy Trust 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 thus on your child's achievement. We hope that you will continue to give all stakeholders your support.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Michaelas
Chair of Governors*

