

JOHN EMMERSON BATTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

WALNUT GROVE REDCAR TS10 3PG

Head Teacher: Mr. Martin Kitchen

Tel: 01642 483697



Fax: 01642 470572

ACHIEVE BELIEVE CHALLENGE

30th October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Formal consultation on proposed conversion to Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

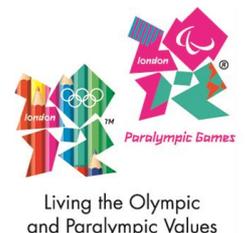
You may be aware of the announcements by the Government making it clear that it wants all schools to become academies, or have a plan in place to become an academy. Whilst the compulsory nature of this has been removed it appears that this is still the long term policy of the current Government.

The preferred structure is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), which is where a group of schools/academies join together and form a single Trust company with a single board of trustees who are responsible for the strategic running of the Trust and are accountable for the Trust. The Department for Education, Ofsted and the Regional Schools Commissioner are all supportive of MATs as are all three main political parties. There is also an increasing body of evidence demonstrating clear benefits when groups of schools work collaboratively within a MAT arrangement. An Academy receives its funding directly from the Government and does not have any money withheld by the Local Authority to fund its services.

Over the last 12-18 months, our Governing Body has continued to revisit the issue of Academies and MATs and whether or not this model was in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff at our school. They believe it is and have voted unanimously to explore this in more detail. At the same time, a number of our partner schools have arrived at a similar conclusion and their Governing Bodies have voted similarly to ours. The schools where Governing Bodies have voted to consider the proposal to form a new MAT are:

- John Emmerson Batty Primary School
- Ings Farm Primary School
- Wheatlands Primary School
- Westgarth Primary School
- Coatham C. of E. Primary School
- New Marske Primary School
- Galley Hill Primary School

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- St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School
- Belmont Primary School
- Lakes Primary School
- Greengates Primary School

Governors would now like to consult more broadly with parents as to the best way forward for the school; the 10 other schools identified above are also consulting on forming the MAT at the same time. This means the proposed MAT will be made up of 7 community schools, 2 foundation schools and 2 church schools; this is often referred to as a 'mixed MAT' and they are becoming more common as MATs increasingly reflect local partnerships or 'families of schools'. For the avoidance of any doubt, the community schools will remain as community schools, foundation schools as foundation schools and the church schools as church schools and the structure of the MAT will protect and enshrine the individual character and ethos of each school.

The 6 week consultation period (30 school days) will take place from Monday 30th October – Friday 8th December. As part of the consultation we will be holding a meeting on the evening of 8th November 2017. The evening will take the form of informal table top discussions where representatives of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team will be on hand to discuss academy status with attendees. The meeting will start at 6.00pm and last for up to one hour.

We have included three additional documents with this letter:

1. Rationale for the move towards forming a Multi Academy Trust
2. A detailed FAQ document (I trust that this answers a number of initial questions)
3. A feedback form; please complete this and return to school

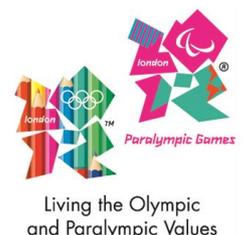
We want and value your feedback and would encourage you to engage in the consultation process. It would be helpful if you could return the reply slip below stating if you are planning to attend the meeting so that we can get an idea of numbers. Please note, this meeting is for parents and carers only and not suitable for children. I would like to thank you in advance for making the time to get involved with this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kitchen'.

Mr Martin Kitchen
Head Teacher

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Consultation Meeting 8th November 2017– Academy Status

Please tick the appropriate box next to the statement that applies. If you are to attend with others, please indicate how many people.

Yes, I / we will be attending. Number attending _____

No, I / we will not be attending.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Print name _____

Thank you for your response.

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