



Yenton Primary School



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Acting Headteacher Mr P Smith

16 May, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ROBIN HOOD MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

This letter asks for your comments on a proposal for our school to convert to academy status and to join Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust. More information about what that means is attached to this letter in the form of a formal consultation, or can be found at www.yenton.bham.sch.uk

The governors are choosing to make this proposal as a positive way forward for our school which would enable us to continue to improve the opportunities we provide for our children and our staff. As you will know Yenton Primary School has been supported by Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust since September 2016 through the provision of an Acting Headteacher (Mr Paul Smith) and an Executive Headteacher (Mr Steve Taylor). It is our view that this relationship with Robin Hood MAT has worked well and we are seeing real benefits to the leadership within the school, its teaching and learning and staff development. We also think this is the best way forward for our school to enable us to “future proof” our school and address the pressures from the impact of funding reforms and inflationary costs.

Academy status is becoming more common, both nationally and locally, and the Government continues to encourage schools to become academies. As Local Authority budgets are reducing, the Local Education Authority is also having to reduce the services that it has available to offer to schools, or offer these as traded services, meaning that schools now have to pay for most services from the local authority. 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 national arrangements change, for example in the way in which children are assessed in Reception, at the end of KS1 and KS2.
- Formalise the growing 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 students.

The Governing Board have thought long and hard before tabling this proposal, looking closely at all our options, researching a number of multi academy trusts and providing due consideration to remaining under local authority control as a maintained school. It is following a long internal programme that we table this proposal for your consideration.

Given the current climate the Governors believe that converting to Academy status and formalising our partnership with Robin Hood 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 achievements. We hope that you will continue to give the Governors and the staff your support.

Whilst we see real benefits in working more closely together, any changes are likely to be behind the scenes. You and your children would see little visible difference if we become an academy. There are no plans to lose the name Yenton for our school; 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 the school as they are now.

There will be an opportunity for you to come and hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. We have arranged three meetings on the following dates and times:

- **Monday 4th June at 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the School hall,**
- **Monday 4th June at 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the School hall**
- **Tuesday 5th June at 9.00am to 10.00am in the School hall**

If you have any questions or comments about this proposal please email us on consultation@yenton.bham.sch.uk or respond to our on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RD55ZLS>, or put a comment in the suggestion box in the Main Reception or send a letter marked "Academy Consultation" to the office.

If you have any comments please send them by **noon 20 June, 2018**.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Popplewell

Vicki Popplewell
Chair Governing Board

Madeline Woodcock

Madeline Woodcock
Vice- Chair Governing Board