

June 2018

Responses to questions raised during consultation meetings and from survey responses

Questions raised so far and responses

1. Will the school staff be employed directly by the Multi Academy Trust rather than the local authority after conversion and how does that affect their future pay and conditions etc?

*Yes they will be employed by the MAT and they will have the same pay and conditions as they have with Birmingham City Council.*

2. What are the views of staff?

*We are undertaking a staff consultation and their views will be taken on board.*

3. Will teachers' salaries be in line with national agreements, once they have been transferred to the Multi Academy Trust?

Yes they will - contracts will continue to honour national agreements

4. Will the school receive more funding from Government if it becomes an Academy?

*The school will receive its funding directly from central government via Robin Hood MAT and this will be based on the same funding formula as state run schools. The amount of funding the school receives will not differ due to it becoming an academy*

5. Will the school have the same school holidays as other Birmingham Schools?

*Yes, there are no plans to change the school holiday dates and timescales. They will continue to be in line with Birmingham schools. Teacher training dates will be arranged on a school by school basis as is currently the case with all schools. The school's Admission Policy will be in line with Birmingham City Council's Admission Policy.*

6. Will the school still provide Nursery/before and after school clubs if it becomes an Academy and joins a MAT?

*Yes. The school has agreed with Birmingham City Council that the Foundation block will be closed and the new purpose built facility will be developed on the school site. A new nursery/childcare provider will be appointed to run the new facility and provide nursery and wraparound childcare provision for Yenton children and families. The new provision will be provided regardless of whether Yenton converts to an Academy or remains as the Local Authority Maintained school.*

7. Will the Governing Board continue to oversee the School as it does now?

*Yes, there are no plans to change the Governing Board. If the school converts to an Academy; all schools within Robin Hood MAT have their own Governing Boards who hold delegated powers and report to the MAT Board. Yenton's Governing Board will operate similar to how it operates now but the financial aspects will be overseen by the MAT Board. The Yenton Governing Board will report to the MAT Board and the Chair of Yenton's Governing Board will attend selected MAT meetings.*

8. Will the school expansion mean that the school will become a split site and the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 elements be separated?

*No. The school is moving towards 3 form entry on a year by year basis. This was at the request of the City Council back in 2014/15 to accommodate the growth in pupil numbers across the city. Currently, Reception, Years 1 and 2 are 3 forms. All of the expansion works were completed in July 2017 and additional classrooms in KS2 are all ready for when the current Year 2 move into Year 3 from September 2018. There are no plans to expand the school any further beyond 3 form entry and all the additional classrooms have been accommodated within the main school building.*

9. Will teachers be moved to another academy?

*No, Yenton's staffing will not be affected by the academisation.*

10. What happens if the trust mismanages the school budget?

*All Multi Academy Trusts operate to the strictest criteria as set out by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Academies*

*Financial Handbook and includes an in-depth annual financial audit carried out by an independent firm of accountants. The Trust also has to conform to bi-annual scrutiny for each school along with a termly review of internal controls for each school. Within the academy system there is far more accountability for finances than in a maintained school.*

11. I would like to know more about how Multi Academy Trusts operate.

*A multi-academy trust (MAT) is where a number of academies join together and form a single trust with a board of directors answerable to the trust's members.*

*Members of the trust are responsible for the strategic oversight of the academies. They appoint and work closely with the trust's directors who determine the policies of the trust, monitor the effectiveness of each academy within the MAT, manage central services where appropriate and report to the Secretary of State. They work to ensure that each academy is performing to the best of its ability and it gets the support it requires. The MAT enters into a supplemental funding agreement with the Secretary of State in respect of each academy within the MAT. Each of the academies in the trust has its own local governing board which has authority delegated to it by the directors.*

*Across the country there are MATs with many academies joined together. This seems to be the way that education is going as academies work more closely together for the benefit of the children in a local area. Fewer and fewer schools are operating in isolation and instead are forming partnerships through MATs.*

*The school ran 3 parent sessions where the details of the MAT were explained.*

12. Is funding for Yenton ring fenced?

*Yes it will be*

13. Are jobs at Yenton guaranteed?

*Yes they will be as part of the TUPE process.*

Would the same consultation take place if the school were RI?

*Yes, it would. This would only differ if the school were in Special Measures which would result in the Secretary of State for Education becoming involved.*