



10th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consultation on Academy Status and joining Inspiring Learners Multi-Academy Trust

Over the past couple of years our governing body has kept a close eye on the Academy agenda, we have watched the educational landscape with keen interest and have discussed the issue at our full governing body meetings. After lengthy discussions over many months and Governor meetings, the Governors agreed that we feel the time is right for our school to consider converting to become an Academy and joining Inspiring Learners Multi-Academy Trust. It is vital that we find a way forward that is right for our school. We feel that joining an established, innovative and collaborative trust could be the right way forward.

We would like to provide you with as much information as possible, so that you may better understand the importance of the school taking this opportunity to secure the future of education for all pupils within our community. We are very proud of our school's ethos and distinctiveness, we want to be clear that we feel becoming an academy is in the best interest of our learners

The key question that we are asking you to consider is whether you agree that this is in the best interest of our school?

Everyone at Cloverlea Primary School is proud of our achievements to date. We are fortunate to have supportive parents, great children and a dedicated staff team. We all work together **to make decisions** with the same ultimate goal, to **always** provide the best education for the children who attend school, to keep the school firmly rooted at the heart of the community and to work together as a team so that going forward into the future Cloverlea Primary School continues to provide a great educational start for all of our pupils. We are proud of how our teaching has developed and that learning is at the heart of all we do.

The leadership team and governing body have been seriously considering the prospects of converting to an Academy. We are united in wanting to ensure that the ethos of our school and self-governance is maintained. We also want to secure a strong future for our school.

The pace of change in education is very swift at the present time. We have seen rapid changes and we do not want to be left behind. The future is uncertain, but we believe that the change to Academy status offers the best long term future opportunity to the school, given the current economic pressures, the numbers of schools who have converted and the reduction of services offered by the Local Authority. The school's governors believe now is the time to widen the debate and to seek the views of the community and parents.

Therefore we are now organising a full consultation process. The initial proposal is for Cloverlea Primary School to convert to become an Academy and part of Inspiring Learners Multi-Academy Trust.

Inspiring children to care, learn and achieve

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The period of consultation will run from **10th September until 12pm on 18th October 2024**. The consultation process is an opportunity for you to ask any questions and contribute your views about the proposal.

The governing body and leadership team are keen to meet with parents to explain in detail the rationale behind the proposal and the impact and implications for pupils, staff and parents. We have arranged a meeting to which all parents / carers are invited and encouraged to attend on 23rd September, at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to hear from the governing body and leadership team and ask any questions you may have.

We have also established a 'academy consultation' email address for parents to contribute to the consultation process. Your thoughts / questions can be submitted via email to academyconsultation@cloverlea.org.uk. Alternatively they can be submitted in writing to me, via the school office. We would be grateful if you could leave any correspondence concerning this issue at the school office marked '*Academy Consultation*'. (Please note: we are unlikely to respond individually to questions raised as we feel it more appropriate to send a response to all parents. We will therefore update our Frequently Asked Questions and send to all parents with any questions that might emerge during the consultation phase.)

The governing body will consider all comments or views that are made about the proposals before any final decision is taken. We should stress that **NO** final decision to convert has yet been reached and the decision will **NOT** be made until after the consultation period has closed.

The timeline for the process is as follows:

- 10th September 2024 **Consultation process begins**
- 23rd September 2024 **Meeting for parents/carers at 6pm**
- 18th October 2024 **Consultation process ends at 12pm**

This is an exciting potential opportunity for our school and we would welcome your engagement in the consultation process as we progress on our journey.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Partington
Chair of Governors

C McConnell
Headteacher

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