



“We want every child to be happy, caring and successful”

10th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Multi Academy Trust Transfer Consultation

I am writing to make you aware that the Governing Body at Cedars Primary School are consulting with key stakeholders regarding a proposal to convert from being a Local Authority School to an Academy. As with all key decisions, our governors are committed to putting the best interests of our children, our staff and the wider community at the centre of the process. We are therefore keen to involve parents and carers in a consultation process.

You may be aware that many schools have taken the decision to become an Academy and join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Clearly this is a very significant step to take and we recognise that you will have lots of questions and during the consultation process we are keen to provide you with the opportunity to explore these with us.

At this stage, we thought it would be helpful to provide you with some initial information about the reasons why the Governing Body are proposing to join the Grand Union Partnership MAT (www.grandunionpartnership.org).

The key factors that have shaped our choice of the Grand Union Partnership include:

- The Grand Union Partnership focuses on providing primary education in the local area. Many MATs have national reach and include both primary and secondary schools. We were attracted by the smaller, local, primary focused nature of the Grand Union Partnership.
- The values of the trust match the values and vision that we have for the future of Cedars Primary School.
- Schools in the Grand Union Partnership serve a diverse range of communities (these include Jubilee Wood, New Bradwell, Old Stratford and Deanshanger) and have their own strong individual identities
- Schools in the partnership commit to jointly developed core principles linked to teaching and learning and curriculum design; however, leaders in each school work with local governors to shape the identity of each school to meet the needs of the community it serves.
- This gives us confidence that Cedars will be able to maintain its own unique identity whilst being able to experience the benefits of working in partnership with a number of local schools that are all committed to delivering excellent education in the communities they serve.
- Through the support of the central trust team and collaboration with each school in the MAT Cedars will be able to draw on a wealth of experience and resources that extend further than those we currently access via the Local Authority.

The Governing Body are therefore wishing to consult on the following proposal for:

Cedars Primary School to convert to academy status and join the Grand Union Partnership MAT.

Governors and leaders believe that this step will support the school to enable it to access wider benefits that will be explored further during consultation events. These events will cover a range of questions that stakeholders often ask during consultation periods and provide the opportunity for parents and carers, our community and our partners to raise further questions regarding this proposal.

The Governing Body wishes to consult with our stakeholders including:

- Staff
- Pupils
- Parents/Carers
- Local Primary Schools and Pre-Schools
- Nearby Secondary Schools
- The Local Authority
- Parish Council
- Local Church leaders

The consultation will run from Monday 10 June until Friday 05 July 2024.

You have the opportunity to attend a face-to-face meetings that we are running for parents and carers on:

- Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 6.30pm
- Thursday 20th June 2024 at 9am

These meetings will provide you with a chance to find out more about the proposal and have your questions answered. A set of frequently asked questions will be shared prior to the meeting and this will be added to as further questions arise through the consultation process.

Should you have any comments, views or questions in the meantime please do get in touch using the following email address – consultation@cedarsprimary.org.uk.

Mrs Goldsmith, my fellow governors and I will be reviewing emails submitted to this address and we will respond to all questions raised linked to this proposal.

We look forward to receiving your comments and questions regarding this important decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Mrs Kate Warren
Chair of Governors