

Sowerby Community Primary School
'Sowing seeds of success: growing courageous learners'



Topcliffe Road
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Tel: 01845 523037



Headteacher: Mrs K Ungerechts B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E

Monday 25th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consultation - Academy Status

For some time, our school has been benefitted from working closely with Meadowside Community Primary School and North Star Teaching Schools Alliance. In July this year Meadowside Primary School became an Academy and was one of the founder school of Elevate Multi Academy Trust.

Having carefully considered a range of options, our Governing Body has decided to consult parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders on whether our school should become an academy and join Elevate Multi Academy Trust.

We are therefore commencing formal consultation today, Monday 25th September 2017 for a period of three weeks. Consultation will therefore end at 5pm on Friday 13th October 2017.

What is an Academy?

An academy is a state school, funded directly by the Department for Education, instead of the local authority. Originally, underperforming schools were turned into Academies to help the school improve rapidly, however in 2010, the Government extended the opportunity to convert to Academy status to all schools that are successful and performing well, and as a result there are now over 6,000 academies in the country, including an increasing number in North Yorkshire Local Authority.

An academy is a charitable trust run by a board of trustees. Academies are rightly expected to work with and support other schools, including lower-performing schools. Should you wish to know more about the Government's policy, the Department for Education has its own Academies bookmark on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

What are the potential benefits for our School within a Multi Academy Trust?

The main benefits of Academy status include:

- Greater control over our finances and the money due to our school.
- Educational benefits for our pupils as a result of additional freedoms available to academies in terms of the curriculum we offer, and how we prioritise our resources.
- The option to work in closer partnership with other schools, and share expertise and services that will benefit all of our pupils and staff.
- Sharing resources and expertise, alongside the additional funding academy status brings, to allow us to target funding towards improving front line teaching and learning.
- The potential to employ our own experts e.g. education psychologists, dedicated school improvement advisers.
- Develop our own solutions collaboratively.

What additional responsibilities will Academy status bring?

- Additional financial and legal responsibilities.
- The Academy Trust would employ our staff rather than the Local Authority
- The Academy Trust would be responsible for admissions rather than the Local Authority (although the Local Authority would still co-ordinate).
- The Academy Trust would enter into a 125-year lease for the land currently owned by the Local Authority. We already have responsibility for the cost of maintaining the land and buildings.
- Additional responsibilities in planning the services previously delivered by the Local Authority – however this is happening anyway as a result of changes to Local Authority services.

How do I respond to the consultation?

Our Governing Body would very much like to hear your opinion. We will be holding drop in sessions attended by the Head Teacher and Governors from our school on:

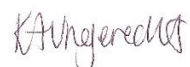
Wednesday 27th September 3.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 11th October 4.30pm-5.30pm

The aim of the drop-in sessions is to hear your views and answer any questions you might have. We have published a list of frequently asked questions on our school website, for any parent who wishes to know more.

Finally, we have provided a consultation response sheet attached to this letter if you wish to provide a written response to the consultation.

Yours



Keeley Ungerechts
Head teacher

**Proposal for Sowerby CP School to become an Academy and join
Elevate Multi Academy Trust**

Consultation Feedback Form

Please let us know your views regarding whether our school should become part of a Multi Academy Trust.

Name.....

Contact details.....

Parent/Carer Staff Other please state.....

Your written response should be handed in at the school's office and marked "Private and Confidential) by no later than **5pm on Friday 13th October 2017**. Alternatively, you can e-mail your response to: admin@sowerby.n-yorks.sch.uk

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.