

# **SOWERBY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PLANS TO BECOME AN ACADEMY.**

## **Question and Answer Sheet**

Firstly some abbreviations;

DfE: the Department for Education

MAT: a multi academy trust. This is a group of like-minded academy schools which operates together.

### **What is an Academy?**

Academies are high-performing schools designed to meet the needs of children in the 21st Century. They are non-fee paying schools and independent of the Local Authority, but publicly funded by the Government and inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

### **Why is this change happening?**

Government policy is for all schools to become academies and whilst this is no longer mandatory (as was proposed in 2016) central government policies and funding/resources being made available to local authorities are steering schools towards academy conversion. Historically schools have operated as independent organisations, under the supervision of the local authority, in our case North Yorkshire County Council. The government wants to phase out the local authority involvement.

### **Will I need to apply for a place for my child?**

No. Pupils of Sowerby CP School will automatically become pupils of the new school.

### **What are the management changes?**

At present the School is run by North Yorkshire Local Authority with a Governing Body whose job is to appoint the Headteacher and monitor school performance. A MAT would act as the Local Authority, in this case, and the school would retain a local board of governors. The DfE would work directly with the MAT and not through the Local Authority.

### **When will this all happen?**

Elevate MAT comes into existence in July 2017 with the initial group of three schools. We aim to join by the beginning of 2018. Other local schools are in the same position of joining or investigating academisation in the future. Once the General Election is over and the DfE are processing applications we will contact you regarding dates for parent consultation meetings.

### **Will the school still follow the national curriculum?**

All schools in the Trust will have innovative and carefully planned curriculums, appropriate to their own schools. As academies we will be free to develop our curriculum without being tied to the National Curriculum. Schools will continue to teach everything expected within the National Curriculum, and pupils will be tested in line with maintained schools (e.g. SATs at Y2 and Y6). As high-performing schools we are well placed to meet the needs of children in the 21st Century.

We hope that this has addressed many of your questions but would be happy to answer any others you may have during the consultation process over the coming months.