



Forest Glade
Primary School

Executive Head Teacher: Ms J Gibby
Head of School: Mr S Paramore
Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4FL
Telephone: 01623 452770

2nd October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Consultation on Forest Glade Primary School's intended conversion to become part of the Flying High Trust

At a time of significant change within education we would like to retain full control over the future direction of our school. The governors and school leaders have given careful consideration to becoming an academy and believe that the best course of action will be to join a multi-academy trust. We considered several options and spoke to leaders from several trusts and we decided the best one for our school was **The Flying High Trust**. Their ethos is one that matches ours, and their proven track record is undoubtedly driven by the fact that they want the best for all children, just as we do. We have already worked closely with them through the Inspiring Leaders provision and staff value the high-quality of CPD received. The Flying High Trust enables our school to retain our name and ethos and everything we hold so dear about the uniqueness of our school, whilst benefiting from collaboration with the Trust and all partner schools to ensure we continue to offer the best opportunities for our children, staff and wider school communities.

By joining Flying High we will continue to forge our own school strategies and ideals, whilst tapping into the Trust's success: sharing the practices that make them so effective. We would retain our same staff who would also benefit from continuing professional development and learning networks sharing best practice.

The proposal is to convert to academy status in January 2020. An important aspect of the academy process is consulting with parents, staff and the community to inform you of the plans and to receive your comments and questions. **The consultation period will run between 2nd October and 30th October**. The Governing Body will then consider responses before making a final decision on the proposal to become an academy.

We would like to invite parents to a consultation meeting in school on **Thursday 10th October at 2.30pm**. This will be an opportunity to hear from the school and governing body, talk to Senior Leaders from the trust, receive your comments and answer any questions you might have. We have also prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document (enclosed) to help answer some of the questions we anticipate you may have. Please feel free to email the school prior to the meeting with any further queries. Unless you request otherwise, these will be added to the FAQ information and published on the school website. Please also feel free to talk with senior staff at school; conversations will be treated as confidential.

Please return the slip below if you intend joining the meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Ms Gibby and Mr Paramore

I will be attending the Flying High Trust consultation meeting **Thursday 10th October at 2.30pm**

Name:

Please return completed forms to the school office.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Academy?

An academy is a state funded school, independent from the Local Authority.

How would converting to an academy benefit our school?

As an academy, we will have the flexibility to secure and build on our strengths so our children can continue to achieve their best, and we can continue to give them the greatest opportunities that we can. The Trust and school share a common ethos and the opportunity to work collaboratively with like-minded schools enables the schools to support and challenge each other to ensure sustainable improvement. The ability to remain outward-facing and benefit from meaningful collaboration, sharing practice and “bringing the best back to Forest Glade” is our ongoing aim.

Do we have to become an academy?

This is not compulsory, although recent government announcements and changes to the educational landscape have made the direction of travel clear. Governors and the Senior Leadership Team have considered this very carefully over a significant period of time, and we believe that doing so is right for our school. Joining the Trust is about partnership and enabling all schools to be the best they can be.

How are the pupils affected?

The children will not notice any immediate difference; they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. In time, they will benefit from the extra freedom given to us as an academy and the additional autonomy over our spending as well as the impact of collaboration with other schools within the Trust and the support and challenge provided by the central Trust team.

How will being an academy affect staff?

The staff will be employed by the Academy Trust rather than Nottinghamshire County Council. Staff are legally protected and transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Staff have been involved in the process to date and no objections have been raised by them in relation to this proposal and in fact they recognise the benefits.

Will the times of the school day and holidays change?

No, we feel that the current structure of the school day works well, as do the holidays.

Will the school change its name or uniform?

We are proud of our school and all that we have achieved. Any changes would be a school decision and there is no expectation from the Trust that the name or uniform will change significantly. We will just be an academy not a school.

Will the Curriculum change?

No, we will be keeping our current broad and exciting curriculum.

Will we get more money as an academy?

Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive as a local authority school. The County Council will no longer top-slice our budget for central services but we will have to pay the Trust for some services and purchase others ourselves. The financial savings are not great and we are not proposing to become an academy for the money. We will have more control over how we spend our budget which will come from central government via the Trust. We will also receive a grant of £25,000 which covers the cost of conversion.

Will the criteria for getting a place at the school change?

There are no immediate plans to change the admissions criteria. If we decided to in the future we would have to consult with parents.

We hope that this answers all of your questions. Please feel free to email the school prior to the meeting with any further queries. Unless you request otherwise, these will be added to the FAQ information and published on the school website. Please also feel free to talk with staff - conversations will be treated as confidential.