

Dear Parents / Carers

Consultation regarding consideration for Conversion to Academy Status

This letter gives you information about our possible conversion to academy status. We are consulting our parents and our local community on the proposal to join the Academies Enterprise Trust.

As an outstanding school we are in an incredibly strong position with an outstanding leadership, teaching and support staff team who are fully committed and devoted to ensuring that Hockley Primary School always achieves the very best for your children. We are heavily oversubscribed and held in high and kind regard from our families and the community of Hockley and beyond.

We never stand still, are always forward thinking and endeavour to seek out the best opportunities for our school, always enabling us to provide the highest standard of education for our children as possible. We believe that we are in a very strong position currently to make the best choice regarding becoming part of a multi academy trust.

As you know, our local secondary and primary schools are part of the AET, and have been for some time, to enable closer partnership working with each other. We took the decision not to join the AET 7 years ago, because I had just joined Hockley Primary school as Headteacher, we had an Ofsted inspection due that year and the school was then judged as satisfactory under the Ofsted framework. We have always kept an open mind about making the best decision at the best time.

However with the continually changing face of education and the Government drive to schools becoming part of Multi academy trusts, (66% of the primary schools in the Rochford District are now part of a MAT), it has been of high importance to investigate our options further.

In the last year, we have explored our options thoroughly with mindfulness of being in control to choose if and when to convert to an Academy on our own terms. Schools are increasingly going to be pushed along the Academy road. We want to make an informed choice. Through this process, we have engaged in numerous visits and discussions with the CEO and the Primary Director for the AET and many other roles. It has been a thoroughly rigorous process and has enabled us to see the strong and new direction that the AET are currently undertaking. It is an exciting time to enable stronger partnership working across schools in our locality and on a wider national scale.

The period of consultation will be from Friday 23rd February to Monday 12th March 2018. On the 7th March 6.30-7.30pm, we will hold a short presentation on the benefits we see for our school and enable you to ask any questions that you may have. In the meantime, please read the attached leaflet that outline the many reasons why we have decided to consider conversion to Academy. It should address many of the questions that you may have. You can also express your views via email to academyenquiries@hockley.essex.sch.uk or in writing addressed to the school. Following this period of consultation, our Governing Body will decide whether or not to convert.

You will be informed of the decision as soon as possible. If we decide to convert we would hope to open as an academy from September 1st 2018. This decision will be taken in the interests of present and future pupils, always ensuring we focus on maintaining our outstanding provision.

Mrs Heatherson

Headteacher

