



## CAPTAIN COOK, LINGFIELD, MARTON MANOR AND THE AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### JOINT CONSULTATION LETTER

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Stakeholder,

Consultation on a proposal to establish a multi-academy trust and convert to academy status

#### **Background**

The Governing Bodies of four schools have been discussing how our schools might work in closer partnership to provide mutual support, challenge and benefits for each other. The Governing Bodies share the ambition for their schools to continue to provide an excellent education for their pupils while protecting each school's role at the heart of its community and retaining its unique qualities and strengths.

Each Governing Body has been considering the future plans of its school in a fast changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape.

#### **Proposal**

The Governing Bodies believe one of the best ways forward may be to establish a local multi-academy trust and for the four schools to convert to academy status. The proposed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) would have four founding member schools, listed in alphabetical order below:

- **Captain Cook Primary School**
- **Lingfield Primary School**
- **Marton Manor Primary School**
- **The Avenue Primary School**

The proposed name of the MAT would be, James Cook Learning Trust.

We believe pupils and staff would benefit from the greater opportunities that formal partnership, through the MAT, would bring, which include:

- extending learning opportunities and activities for pupils
- enriching the curriculum through partnership working and shared resources
- enabling the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning
- enhancing the professional development of teaching and support staff
- building mutual support and accountability between the Head Teachers and between the Governors
- securing cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services

## **Consultation**

We are now consulting with staff, parents, carers, pupils and the community. The consultation period will run between Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and Wednesday 19<sup>TH</sup> July 2017. Each Governing Body will then consider a report on the academy consultation before making a final decision on whether to proceed with the proposal. If the Governing Bodies agree to proceed, the plan is for the Trust to be established and for the schools to convert in the Spring Term 2018. We attach a *Consultation Frequently Asked Questions* for your information.

If you have any feedback on the proposal that you would like to share with the Governing Bodies, then please do complete the attached survey form and return to the school by Wednesday 19<sup>TH</sup> July 2017.

Yours sincerely,

### **Captain Cook Primary School**

Chris Walton, Chair of Governors  
Amy Young, Head Teacher

### **Lingfield Primary School**

Jane Marron-Shepherd, Chair of Governors  
Phil Thackstone, Head Teacher

### **Marton Manor Primary School**

Councillor Jean Sharrocks, Chair of Governors  
Gerri Howard, Head Teacher

### **The Avenue Primary School**

Alan Cockerill, Acting Chair of Governors  
Emma Watson, Head Teacher

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Our Collective Vision**

We aim to become an outstanding multi-academy trust that:

- Improves opportunities and outcomes for all our children
- Nurtures self-motivated, successful and resilient learners
- Drives ambition and aspiration in our children
- Inspires learners with high expectations of themselves
- Grows responsible, open-minded and caring citizens

### **1 . What is the proposal?**

The proposal is for four local primary schools in the south of Middlesbrough to form a partnership called a multi-academy trust (MAT) and for the schools to convert to academy status.

The four founding members of the Trust, in alphabetical order will be

- Captain Cook Primary School
- Lingfield Primary School
- Marton Manor Primary School
- The Avenue Primary School

The four schools have been working closely together for some time and have already benefitted from this collaboration and partnership.

### **2 . How would this proposal benefit our school?**

We believe that stronger partnership between schools that share a similar vision, ethos and values and the same commitment to raising standards, would help our school in a number of important ways, including;

- extending learning opportunities and activities for all pupils
- enriching the curriculum through partnership working and shared resources
- sharing excellent practice in teaching and learning
- enhancing the professional development of teaching and support staff
- building mutual support and accountability between the Head Teachers and between the Governors

We believe that we can bring enhanced benefits and opportunities to parents and pupils by formalising these existing working relationships.

### **3. How will the children benefit?**

If the schools convert to academy status and establish the MAT, the children will still wear the same uniforms as before and will be taught in the same classrooms by the same teaching staff. So they won't notice any immediate difference. Each school will continue to strive for an outstanding education for all our children.

However, in time the children may notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn, mostly as a result of new training opportunities given to teaching staff to innovate and improve the children's education. In particular, the children will benefit from the sharing of excellent and innovative practice in teaching and learning between the partner schools. They will also have wider opportunities to learn new skills and experience new activities.

#### 4. What will be the impact on staff?

Currently, all staff are employed by Middlesbrough Borough Council. After conversion, all staff will be employed by the new MAT. Staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Staff will be provided further information on how they are affected.

Being part of the MAT will also provide greater opportunities for career progression and development. Already staff are working together on a range of teaching, learning, curriculum and pupil support projects.

#### 5. What is an academy and what is a multi-academy trust?

An academy is an independent state school that is run by an academy trust. The academy trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the academy. The academy is funded directly by the Government and is no longer run by the Local Authority. The academy trust is given charitable exemption, which means it must operate much like a charity. A multi-academy trust (MAT) has two or more academies as members.

By the end of March 2017 there were 6,807 academies open and this number continues to grow. Across England, 62% of all secondary schools and 22% of primary schools have become academies. Another 1,238 schools are currently going through the conversion process.

#### 6. What information is there about the other schools in the proposed Trust?

Name of School	Captain Cook Primary School	Lingfield Primary School	Marton Manor Primary School	The Avenue Primary School
Type of School	Community	Community	Community	Community
Age Range	3-11	3-11	3-11	3-11
Further Provision			The Support Base at Marton Manor	
Location	Stokesley Rd, Marton Middlesbrough TS7 8DU	Buxton Avenue Marton Middlesbrough TS7 8LP	The Derby, Marton, Middlesbrough TS7 8RH	The Avenue, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0AG
Number on Roll (inc nursery)	425	259	234	243
Head Teacher	Mrs Amy Young	Mr Phil Thackstone	Mrs Gerri Howard	Mrs Emma Watson
Most Recent Ofsted	Good	Good	Good	Good

#### 7. How will the MAT trust and the schools be run?

The MAT will have a Board of up to eleven Directors made up of a mixture of current Governors, Head Teachers and people with particular skills and expertise to help it run efficiently, effectively and compliantly.

Although the Board would have a number of legal and regulatory powers it would delegate many of its powers to Local Governing Bodies and Committees. Local Governing Bodies would continue to have a mixture of representatives from parent, staff and local communities.

Each Head Teacher would still be responsible for running their own school. The four Head Teachers together would form a leadership group to develop plans for partnership working and collaboration.

**8. Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?**

No, none of the schools will be changing their name, uniform or logo.

**9. Will we get more money as an academy?**

Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school. The whole of the school budget would come direct to the school from central Government allowing the school to control the whole of their spending. As part of a multi-academy trust, we may also achieve greater efficiencies through increased buying power and joint commissioning of services; such as school equipment, catering and cleaning.

**10. How will admissions to the school be affected?**

The application process for parents and carers will remain the same. The MAT will become the admitting authority for the four schools but each would have its own admissions policy as now. Any future policy changes would need to be clear and fair and in line with the admissions law and the School Admissions Code. The Local Authority will continue to have responsibility for making sure there are sufficient school places locally and to coordinate the admissions process for all schools.

**11. Will our responsibilities in relation to SEND and exclusions change?**

No. Responsibilities as an academy in relation to Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) and exclusions will be just the same as they are now. Marton Manor will continue to run its support base.

**12. Can a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan nominate an academy as their school of choice?**

Yes. Schools converting to academy status can retain the admissions criteria they currently use. These arrangements and related processes must at all times comply with the School Admissions Code.

**13. Will academies be free from the Ofsted inspection regime?**

No. Academies are inspected in the same way as maintained schools. Each school will continue to be inspected individually. The performance of all schools will continue to be monitored and if there are signs of deterioration, or other factors likely to cause concern, these could trigger an inspection.

**14. What is the process to become an academy?**

The four schools established a working group of Governors and Head Teachers and, over the past few months, they have been exploring MAT status. The working group presented proposals for the governance, leadership and management structure of a MAT to the four Governing Bodies.

All four Governing Bodies have agreed to consult on the proposals with parents, carers, pupils, staff, unions and the wider community.

The four schools are sending out consultation information. Please contact one of the Head Teacher's if you have specific questions or require further information. Drop-in sessions may be arranged if required.

When the consultation period is over, the governing bodies of the four schools will come together to consider a report on the consultation. They will then decide, individually, whether or not to proceed with the proposal. If the decision from all schools is to go ahead then subject to some legal tasks, such as completing the agreement with the Secretary of State, the MAT would be established and the schools would convert in the spring term 2018.

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST  
AND TO CONVERT THE SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

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SURVEY

About you: *(Please tick which school applies to you)*

- Captain Cook Primary School
- Lingfield Primary School
- Marton Manor Primary School
- The Avenue Primary School

About you: *(Please tick one that applies to you)*

- Parent / Carer       Member of local community
- Teacher               Other (please state)
- Support staff

1. *What do you like about your school?*

2. *Do you support the proposal of your school converting to academy status and establishing a multi academy trust*

Please circle one of the responses

YES                                      NO                                      MAYBE                                      DONT KNOW

3. *Could you explain your response to Q2?*

4. *Is there anything else you would like to say about the proposal?*

On completion of this questionnaire, we would ask you to either drop it into your school reception or post it to the school by Wednesday, July 19<sup>h</sup> 2017.