

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

This term the Governors have been looking at how we can ensure your child receives the best possible education. We have been looking at whether your child would be best served if we joined a Multi Academy Trust. We formed a working party and held numerous meetings. Members of that working party attended training events, referenced a number of sources and undertook research (including looking at the findings of the Education Select Committee).

The findings were:

There is no current, overwhelming evidence that academisation is driving improved learning outcomes for pupils over and above maintained schools; for good schools with a strong leadership it is not clear why academising is beneficial at this point.

An experienced management and leadership structure is required to run such a large business but it is not clear how such a costly layer will deliver improvements at classroom level where resources are already scarce. It is also believed that large scale efficiencies often cited as a benefit are unlikely to deliver real improvements again at school level, where the MAT is large and therefore requires more administrative roles.

The leadership selection or succession within MAT's currently does not appear to be as transparent and open to competition as other sectors, including the maintained school system.

There is a concern that middle leadership layers (Headteacher) are likely to be spread across a number of schools, to drive efficiencies and reduce cost; but also reducing the effectiveness of their role, and making the system more faceless.

Academisation as a process is long and takes great commitment from senior staff and Governors, as well as providing a source of stress and destabilisation for those on the periphery, which distracts from school life and the provision of great education to our pupils.

Financial viability is expected to be only attainable at a MAT size of 10,000 pupils, this requires a large number of secondary and feeder primaries to make the numbers work. As such, a school of 200 cannot and should not expect preferential treatment in decisions or outcomes.

On balance, the Governing body determined that there is not sufficient, overwhelming evidence that academisation will deliver a step change in the outcome of our pupils at present, but that it would constitute a large distraction to staff and governors, as well as creating a level of instability which would be detrimental to the education of our children. Therefore, we decided that we will remain a maintained school, and that we will review the situation in 3 years time.

We will, of course, continue to work with other schools and the Governing Body will be actively looking to increase its collaboration both educationally and from a business point of view.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Boothe back to our school – she will be returning four days a week in the Spring Term with Mr Pearson carrying on his role as Headteacher on one day a week. We would like to thank Mr Pearson who has done a great job during the Autumn Term ensuring that the school continues to move forward.

The Governing Body would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.