



Leigh and Bransford Primary School

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Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation about becoming an academy

At our full governors' board meeting last Thursday evening (28/4/22) we passed a motion to formally start the process of joining a multi-academy trust (MAT); part of this process is to consult with our pupils, staff and parents and this is why I'm writing to you today. This is something that the school governors and I have been investigating since September and is one of our school improvement targets for this year.

The governors and I feel that the pupils at our school would benefit from being part of a MAT for the following reasons:

- School staff will benefit from shared training and close collaboration with staff from other schools
- The school will have more opportunities for inter school learning and sporting events
- The school will benefit from easily being able to share resources and facilities
- The school will save money by the pooling of resources and centralised procurement and other functions
- The school will benefit from engaging in peer review and by both giving and receiving support when appropriate
- The school will have access to centralised services such as ICT, Safeguarding and Educational Welfare Officer functions
- The school will be more resilient as part of a larger group, for example to deal with long term sickness or the loss of key staff members
- The school will have more access to specialist teachers with a larger pool across the MAT to choose from

Whilst we are excited by these opportunities for the school, we are also mindful that it is the government's stated aim that all schools become academies. Our view is that it is important for us to now choose a MAT that suits us rather than potentially have one chosen for us in the future. With that in mind, we feel that now is the right time for us start this process.

The governing body and I have had presentations from four MATs and on Thursday we voted that the Mercian Educational Trust (MET) was the one that suited our school best. Schools already within the MET are Somers Park, Northleigh, Great Malvern Primary and Dines Green Primary and therefore we are pleased that this offers us a group of local schools to work closely with. More information can be found here: <https://www.metacademies.org.uk/>. We also believe that the MET is small enough that the distinctive strengths, nature and ethos of L&B will not be lost, and in fact we can help to shape the trust going forwards. We also noted that the MET has a proven track record of successful peer to peer support and this is something that we can give further capacity to as well as benefit from.

It is important to note however that as well as consultation, there now follows a period of due diligence by the MET and the Department for Education. Once these processes are completed successfully the application goes to the West Midlands Advisory Board for a final decision.

As part of the consultation process, if you would like to give us your views about joining the MET, then please email:

consultation@leighbransford.worcs.sch.uk

The consultation period will run until noon on Friday 13th May.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bill