



Church Hill Infant School

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Headteacher: *Mrs M Bulsara*

Letter for Consultation

Church Hill Infant School to enter into a formal partnership with a multi academy trust

As you are aware, Church Hill Infant School is a single academy. It is proposed that the academy will join **Bradgate Education Partnership**, a multi-academy trust (MAT), for September 2016. The governors of Church Hill Infant School would like to consult with you on this proposal. The proposal will be subject to each schools approval and the approval of the Department of Education.

If the proposal is approved the MAT will be established by (and include) the following local community schools:-

- Broomfield Primary School,
- Church Hill Infant School,
- Eastfield Primary School,
- Gaddesby Primary School,
- Great Dalby Primary School,
- The Merton Primary School,
- Newtown Linford Primary School,
- The Pochin School,
- The Roundhill Academy,
- Seagrave Village Primary School,
- Swallowdale Primary School.

What will joining a MAT mean for current academy?

Currently Church Hill Infant School is supported by its own academy trust, the Church Hill Infant School academy trust. If our academy trust joins the MAT, the governance arrangements for the current academy will change.

The MAT will be managed by a new Board of Trustees, and will include representatives from the partner schools, together with members who can offer a range of specialist expertise. We are proud of our school and want to retain its identity. As a result, the individual characteristics of ours and of every school in the MAT will be retained. Whilst they will undoubtedly gain from the benefits outlined below, there will be no visible change at the individual school level.

What are the benefits of being a MAT?

The aim is to enhance the core purpose of delivering an outstanding educational pathway for all of the children in each of the schools within the MAT and to ensure that we have a robust structure to cope with the ever changing educational landscape and the latest proposals from the Department for Education. A number of key benefits of this more formal partnership have been identified through the analysis carried out by the boards of schools including:

- Long term sustainability of good and outstanding schools for our children.
- Sharing of expertise to enhance our children's teaching and learning experience
- Shared training of staff and leaders giving increased opportunities for personal development and growth of talent.
- Increased opportunities for mentoring and career development of all our staff therefore providing an attractive working environment for future employees.



- Shared OFSTED experience and expertise.
- Ability to build stronger sources of supplementary income through focused consultancy and training services
- Shared creativity and innovation.
- Stronger combined Board expertise.
- Progressive savings in administration and contracts through sharing resources and increasing our combined purchasing power.

Are there any disadvantages to becoming a MAT?

As a MAT, the central board of trustees will be accountable for the other academies that join the MAT, not just Church Hill Infant School. This means increased responsibility. However, as part of the conversion process, the governing body will ensure that careful decisions are taken to ensure that the right governance structure and systems are in place to successfully operate more than one academy.

Will we continue relationships with other schools outside the MAT?

We have a unique and strong relationship with our feeder school, Church Hill C of E Junior School and other Church schools. These relationships will be maintained and we will continue to work together to enhance the education for children in Syston and Thurmaston.

Will I still be able to apply for a place at the Junior school?

There will be no changes to how you apply for school places. Current arrangements for school places will remain the same and applications will continue to be administered by Leicestershire Local Authority.

What else will change?

We do not intend to change anything else about the day to day operation of Church Hill Infant School as a result of joining the MAT.

How can I find out more?

There is more information about MAT academies on the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>
If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, please email the school office on admin@churchhill-inf.leics.sch.uk, alternatively appointments can be arranged with Mrs Balsara.

How can I make representations?

Representations can be made in writing to: The Headteacher
Church Hill Infant School
Church Hill Road
Thurmaston
Leicester
LE4 8DE

Or by email to: admin@churchhill-inf.leics.sch.uk

Please complete our short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2PMTTV2>

The closing date for representations to be made is 5pm on Monday 9 May 2016.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Balsara
Head Teacher