

# Consultation on Knotty Ash Primary School becoming an academy and joining Lydiate Learning Trust

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will recall that a letter was sent to you in July, informing you that after careful consideration the Governing Body had decided to apply for Knotty Ash Primary School to convert to an academy and join a multi-academy trust (MAT). Following the initial information sharing stage, we would now like to formally consult with you regarding this.

After careful consideration, the trust that Governors have identified as the right one for our school to join is Lydiate Learning Trust [www.lydiatelearningtrust.co.uk](http://www.lydiatelearningtrust.co.uk). We believe that this MAT best meets our needs, shares our ethos and is the one that will enable us to retain our identity and autonomy. Our Governing Board believes that joining this trust, senior leaders and staff will be empowered to continue to deliver a great education for your child/children, but with less administrative challenges than they currently face. They would be working with like-minded people and schools in our community, that share our commitment to securing the best outcomes for **all** pupils.

## **For your information, these are the key differences that would come with Academy status as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT):**

- The school will cease to be maintained by the Local Authority but will instead be funded and maintained directly by the Department for Education. This will mean that the school will retain a portion of its budget that is currently retained by the Local Authority.
- The Trust will act as a central channel for all funding, with each school within the Trust being funded on the basis of its pupil numbers (similar to the current arrangement for us as a school maintained by the Local Authority). This includes individual schools retaining all their individual funding for Pupil Premium children and pupils with additional needs.
- A proportion of the overall budget, currently utilised to buy services such as payroll and Human Resources from external providers, will be retained centrally by the Trust for these common key and essential services and contracts. The Trust will establish value for money and generate economies of scale.
- The school staff will become employed by the MAT. The employment rights of all members of staff will be protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations 2006. This means that staff will transfer to the MAT under the same terms and conditions of employment. Pension rights and continuity of service record will also be preserved.
- Multi-Academy Trusts must still comply with the admissions, exclusions and SEND laws and relevant codes of practice as we have to now as a maintained school.

- Academies are permitted certain freedoms, for example, from following the National Curriculum (although we have no plans to deviate from it.) In practice, all schools continue to be overseen by Ofsted and children will continue to be subject to national SATs at the end of Key Stages One and Two.

We are committed to ensuring that in making this change and joining a MAT, the individual ethos and values of Knotty Ash Primary School will be retained. Although we will be part of the Lydiate Learning Trust we will continue to be named Knotty Ash Primary School and our uniform and logos will not change. Our rich and exciting curriculum, extra-curricular programme, school day, pastoral support and guidance and the general day to day organisation of the school will not be affected. The high-quality teaching and the resources currently provided to Knotty Ash Primary School will all continue. The Deaf Resource Base would continue to be an integral and valued part of the school. There would also be no staffing changes as a result of a change to become an Academy.

This letter is part of our consultation process. The consultation period will begin today for a period of two school weeks and will end at 5.00pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Our Governing Body would welcome any comments, questions or queries that you have in response to this consultation. These can be made in writing to the Clerk to the Governing Board, Mrs L Ashcroft at the school or via email titled consultation response to [l.ashcroft@knottyashprimary.co.uk](mailto:l.ashcroft@knottyashprimary.co.uk) .

If you would like to hear more about the proposal and ask questions, there will be a meeting for parents/carers on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30pm.

This letter is also published on the school website – [www.knottyashprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.knottyashprimaryschool.co.uk) .

Yours sincerely,

**Mr D Rushworth**  
Chair of Governors