



IEB Consultation Meeting with Parents/Carers

For parents and carers of pupils at Kettlesing Felliscliffe
Community Primary school and not for wider distribution

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

Outline of the meeting

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview
- Process
- FAQ
- Questions



Background

- Beckwithshaw and Ripley Endowed are obliged to become academies, by law, following their Ofsted Inspections.
- Kettlesing-Felliscliffe is under no such order as its judgment is historically 'good'.
- Kettlesing-Felliscliffe therefore would have to opt to become an academy
- Elevate Multi Academy Trust is expected to be the designated home of Ripley and Beckwithshaw – the IEB have no choice in this
- The IEB faced with the decision to keep the schools together or for Kettlesing to stand alone as a school.



Our Aims

- For the three schools to continue to work closely together as a Federation, in a supportive, ambitious, and sustainable way.
- Ensure that they all three schools continue to be happy and safe places for the children and for school leaders and staff to work as a Federation team.
- Together develop a strong and effective curriculum which contributes to a high-quality education for your children.
- To promote the viability of all three schools into the future



Current Position

- Currently progressing discussions with Elevate Multi–Academy Trust, due diligence process on our Federation schools.
- The signs continue to be positive, and we are hoping that their application to the DfE will be formalised shortly.
- The IEB also must make a decision about the future of Kettlesing-Felliscliffe School
- We wish to seek your views on, and your support for, our proposal about Kettlesing- Felliscliffe.
- **We the IEB recommend that the School should convert into the Elevate Multi–Academy Trust alongside Ripley and Beckwithshaw.**



The process

- Beckwithshaw and Ripley Endowed are obliged to become academies, by law, following their Ofsted Inspections
- The IEB has taken a resolution to consult on and application for Kettlesing to convert to an academy with Elevate.
- The DfE need to approve the school to convert and award the Academy Order
- The governors need to carry out a formal consultation process with parents and carers and with staff.
- Meanwhile, the MAT and school engage in some due diligence of things like finances, quality of education and the legal status of the land and buildings.
- Following consultation, the governors then need to resolve to ratify their decision.
- The school progresses to conversion.



What is an academy?

- Academies are state schools, funded directly from central government, no longer under the control of the Local Authority. Academy status gives schools more freedom to be innovative and creative with the curriculum, timetabling, staffing and governance.
- An academy is part of a charitable trust (MAT) run by a board of trustees. Trusts and their academies are rightly expected to work with and support other schools, including vulnerable schools

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

- A Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company and is responsible for overseeing the running of a number of schools. It has three layers of governance: the Members; the Directors; and the Local Academy Councils (similar to school local governing boards).



What are the main differences between academies and maintained schools?

- The models of governance and funding change.
- MATs have a direct funding agreement with the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) and receive funding directly from them for all schools in the MAT - these funds are then distributed to each school to manage.
- Standards are monitored by the governance and leadership of the Trust instead of the LA.
- Standards are reported to the Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC) who works on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- Academies have more freedoms and do not have to follow the national curriculum, but they do have to take part in national assessments such as (SATs and GCSEs) and Ofsted will still monitor them.





ELEVATE

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Keep Up Not Catch Up™

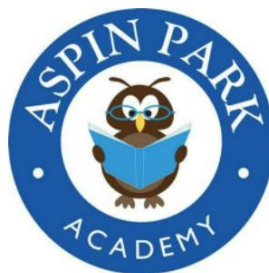
Alanbrooke Academy



Meadowside Academy



Aspin Park Academy



Knayton C of E Academy



Thorner C of E Primary School



Keeble Gateway Academy



Marton-cum-Grafton Cof E Primary School



Topcliffe C of E Academy



Sowerby Academy



Carlton Miniott Academy



Knaresborough St John's C of E Primary School



Thornton Dale C of E Primary School



Rillington Community Primary School



Why Elevate Academy Trust?



- Access to top quality staff, including a Trust leadership team who will be sharply focussed on securing excellence.
- Moderation of standards across the partnership of schools to ensure the highest quality provision
- Greater control over finances and the money due to schools.
- Educational benefits for students as a result of additional freedoms available to academies in terms of the curriculum we offer, and how we prioritise resources.
- The opportunity to work in close and formalised partnership with other schools and share expertise and services that will benefit all of our students and staff.
- Sharing resources and expertise, allows us to target funding towards improving front line teaching and learning.
- Developing own solutions collaboratively.

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Will schools lose their identity and will there be big changes?

- No. Each school will become an academy in its own right and will be part of the Trust. The Local Academy Councils' (LAC) role will be to ensure that the ethos is strong, and that the unique identity of each school is maintained. There are no significant changes planned which will affect pupils on a day-to-day basis.

What will the direct impact be on families if our school joins a Trust?

- The move will not have a negative impact on families. The school will still be led and managed by the headteachers and a LAC.



What are the legal responsibilities towards children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

- Academies must follow the SEND Code of Practice and work closely with the LA, who retains the statutory responsibility for SEND in an authority just like other schools.

What about safeguarding?

- The same expectations for schools about safeguarding would be in place in the Trust. LAs also retain a statutory responsibility for safeguarding.



What is the role of parents?

- All schools that convert to academies must ensure that parents are consulted.
- Parents are important in the work of the schools and those looking to become part of a MAT must seek to work in partnership with the families who entrust their children to their care.
- Our catchment area and our partner schools will remain unchanged too. Admissions will still be administered by the LA.
- The MAT board is responsible for arranging for any admissions appeals if there are families who wish to appeal for a place in a Trust school. Parents will also remain as a key category on LACs.



Will the uniform at the schools change?

- Some MATs do have a corporate approach, but our Federation will continue to have its own unique identity in the Trust and Elevate recognises this includes uniform, logo, and signage.

Will the school day or holiday dates change?

- It is not intended that there will be any change to the length of the school day or the holidays as set already by the governing body of the Federation and the Executive Headteachers.

Will the name of the school change?

- There is no requirement for the school to have the word academy in its title, although it can if it wishes. Any change of name of a Church School requires Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) approval.



Who owns the buildings and how are they maintained?

- Kettlesing-Felliscliffe is in the ownership of the County Council. These arrangements are not expected to change when the schools become academies.
- The schools and in turn the Trust will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day management and maintenance of the buildings and sites and the Trust will have access to a standard capital allocation to enable significant works to be carried out when needed.
- The County Council will be expected to grant a 125-year lease of the Community Primary School site to the Trust.



What happens with finances and resources?

- The Trust Board will be responsible for presenting the consolidated accounts for the Trust as a whole.
- The Trust will provide opportunities for centralising contracts and service delivery that we hope will yield savings for school budgets.
- The LAC will be responsible for managing the delegated school budget, with oversight from the central team.
- The Trust is responsible for the central service fund and for strategic planning across the whole Trust.
- The LAC is responsible for staffing structures. As now, they will need to ensure that the structure is sustainable within the delegated budget. The central Trust team will support in this area if needed.



What will happen to the existing schools' reserves or deficits? Any transfer of assets?

- All assets and existing reserves or deficits will be retained by the schools on conversion, having been contractually transferred by the governing body to the Trust pursuant to the terms of a Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA).
- The LA is obliged by statutory regulation to transfer any school surpluses to the academy within 4 months of conversion, though typically it happens more quickly than that.

What happens with teachers and support staff employment?

- Teachers and support staff employed by the LA (VC schools)/GB (VA schools) at the point of the transfer will transfer to Elevate on their existing Terms and Conditions.



Key points to note if the school converts

- The character, ethos and values of Kettlesing-Felliscliffe Primary School would remain unchanged
- No changes to the day-to-day work of the school following conversion (uniform, name of the school etc).
- Governance arrangements and accountability will change
- There will be closer working practices between the schools in the Trust.
- An FAQs document was sent out to parents and staff



Questions



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