

22nd September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

HALL MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST CONSULTATION LETTER FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

It has always been a shared vision and priority of the Governing Body to enable the school to continue to provide an excellent education for our children. Whilst as a school we strive to retain our outstanding and unique qualities and strengths, we recognise that the role of Local Authorities in supporting schools is diminishing and that it is Government policy to encourage schools to become academies.

The Governing Body of Hall Meadow Primary School believes the best way of improving standards in the future while maintaining our schools ethos, philosophy and values, is to form a 'Multi-Academy Trust' (MAT) with the Inspire Teaching School. A MAT of our own making will give us all the control we need to forge a powerful future.

The proposal is that Hall Meadow Primary School will convert to academy status and then join the MAT. This consultation is open to all, including parents, pupils, staff and the wider community. We would like to invite you to a meeting in the school hall on **Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 5pm** to discuss this exciting prospect.

In brief:-

An academy is a state school that is run by an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the academy. The academy is funded directly by the Government not through the Local Authority.

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is when schools come together in partnership. Our Governing Body believes that the best option is to form a local Multi Academy Trust. Schools will keep their own name and their own identity. In the future, it will be possible for other schools to join the Trust.

These changes are about enhancing teaching and learning for all children. They would allow us to maintain control of our school for our community and for our children.

Hall Meadow will retain their own governing body. The newly formed Trust will have a Board of Directors which will include members from our own Governing body. The Trust Board will delegate powers to the governing body which will be a similar role that they currently have. There would be no change to the internal school leadership structure.

The Governors have no plans to change the name, logo, uniform or individual identity of the school.

Currently, the employer for staff is Northamptonshire County Council. After conversion all staff at all the schools will be employed by the Trust. Staff are legally protected and will transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Their continuity of service is protected, and all staff will be consulted in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.

In many ways the children will not notice any immediate difference; they will be in the same uniform and in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. We will continue to provide an outstanding education for all our children.

We look forward to welcoming you on **Wednesday 28th September at 5pm** to discuss the next steps.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Pritchard
Chair of Governors



Mrs T C Watts
Head Teacher