



12th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Proposed conversion to academy status within the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust

At the end of last term, following the Governing Board meeting when all responses to the consultation on this proposal were considered, I wrote to you with an update. The full text of that letter and of all our other communications about this proposal continue to be available on the school website.

In summary, the majority of those who responded to the consultation support this proposal and after careful consideration the Board agreed to continue with the academy conversion process and to seek an academy order from the DfE. This order has now been granted and as stated in my previous letter, this is part of a process -being a permission to convert, not an obligation to do so.

Although the formal consultation has ended, governors remain committed to ongoing opportunities for you to raise further questions and offer any comments about this proposal through the following options:

1. Access to a survey monkey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SJMextra> . Governors will review all comments and questions and then publish, on the school website, further information and responses.
2. The vice chair and I will be available for short meetings, by appointment only, with individuals or small groups of up to 4 people, over the next few weeks. If you would like make an appointment to meet with us, please contact the school office for available dates and times.

Attached to this letter is a summary of key points about the proposal to convert to academy status and a more detailed response to a number of concerns that have been raised about academies in general. It is important to note that Academy Trusts fulfil their responsibilities in different ways and it is not therefore possible to generalise about the behaviour of "Academies." That is why our focus is on what is being proposed by DCAT and why joining this particular academy trust would benefit our school.

Governors are committed to ensuring that St John's Meads, serving our local community, continues to provide the very best possible education for all our children within the Church of England Vision for Education that makes our school a very special place to be. It is absolutely vital that we identify the best support, within a sustainable, long-term structure, to improve outcomes for all children.

This commitment to setting the strategic direction for the school and improving outcomes for all has been central to our proposal to convert to academy status with the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust.

With kind regards

Linda Caroe
Chair of Governors