

FARTHINGHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Main Road, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northants, NN13 5PA.



12th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND JOIN THE WARRINER MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

As some of you will know, the Governing Body of Farthinghoe Primary School previously considered conversion to academy status, but decided that the specific way forward being proposed was not right for our school at that time.

The Governing Body has been keeping that decision under review and has now resolved that we should move forward to apply again to the Secretary of State for consent to convert to academy status, this time within The Warriner Multi Academy Trust. This letter gives more information about this proposal and what the change would mean for our school and for your children. We would welcome questions and comments from parents about this proposal; the Governing Body will take all views into account before deciding whether to proceed.

Since we previously considered academy status the context around us has changed. More schools locally have converted – half of state primary schools in Northamptonshire are now academies, and the same is true of primary schools within a 5 mile radius of our school. Reductions in funding for local authorities mean that central support services which we might previously have called on are now no longer available or come at a cost. Funding changes being implemented by the Government will also impact on our income. The Governing Body of Farthinghoe Primary School therefore unanimously believes that the time is right to make a change. A lot of work has been done in looking at all the options available to us and this is, without doubt, the best one for our school. We have therefore resolved that we should pursue academy status, as a member of The Warriner Multi Academy Trust.

The Warriner Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company currently responsible for 5 academies: 4 village primary schools and 1 secondary school. We firmly believe that developing our relationship with this group of schools will benefit our school and enhance your child's primary education. One of the main priorities of The Warriner MAT is to have a sustained impact on the progress and outcomes of all pupils. The Governors of Farthinghoe Primary School believe The Warriner MAT to be professional, strongly focused on providing the best outcomes for all pupils and of a size to be able to offer outstanding support in teaching and learning and central service (non-teaching) functions. The Department for Education has identified The Warriner MAT in a document of case studies of best practice.

Each school within The Warriner Multi Academy Trust retains its unique character whilst still having the opportunity to make a distinctive contribution to the MAT. Conversion to academy status will be seamless from a pupil and parent perspective, with the day to day running of the school remaining unchanged. We will not change our ethos, our school uniform or our admissions criteria. All children attending the school and all staff employed here at the time of conversion will continue in the school. We will continue to have our own local governing body, including elected parents and staff, with the strong support and guidance of the Directors of the MAT.

Many of the benefits will directly help effectiveness as, for example, our teaching staff work together and share best practice across the curriculum. Other benefits will be 'behind the scenes' as we exploit the great resources that the MAT brings. There will be additional opportunities for shared pupil activity and, alongside this, we will continue to play an active part in the Chenderit Primary Schools cluster activities to aid transition



FARTHINGHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Main Road, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northants, NN13 5PA.



for the majority of our pupils who move on to Chenderit for their secondary education.

Governors believe that Academy status within The Warriner Multi Academy Trust is the best way to support the school in continuing to develop and improve, and that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and thus to your child's achievement.

The academy conversion process begins with an application to the Secretary of State for Education for an academy order. This is in effect a permission to convert – and confirms that the Secretary of State, through the Regional Schools Commissioner, is happy for us to proceed in this way.

Some more information about academy status and about the Warriner MAT is attached. Further information about The Warriner Multi Academy Trust can be found at <https://warrinermultiacademytrust.co.uk/>.

If you have any questions or comments about this proposal, please respond on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fpswmat>, or send a letter marked "Academy Consultation" to Mrs Whitehouse before the consultation closes on Friday 9th February 2018.

If you would like the opportunity to come and hear more about the proposal and to ask questions to governors and representatives of the Warriner MAT, please fill in the slip below and return to school before Friday 19th January 2018. If there is enough interest we will arrange a meeting during the week beginning 22nd January 2018.

I believe this is an exciting opportunity to become part of one of the highest regarded MATs in the area. This would be a positive move for our school, providing security, opportunity and sustainability for the future education of our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Whitehouse
Head Teacher

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND JOIN THE WARRINER MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please return to school before Friday 19th January 2018

I have received the Governors letter about the proposal to become an academy within WMAT. I would like the opportunity to find out more about the proposal and to ask questions and would be grateful for a meeting.

Name: _____

