



Monday 14th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

ACADEMY CONVERSION / MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Knypersley First School is currently a Foundation Trust school and a member of the Biddulph Partnership Trust. Approximately a year ago the Governing Body started to think about the benefits of conversion to Academy status and began to consult with key stakeholders.

We now believe that not only is it the right time to convert the school's status, it is indeed necessary in order to safeguard the identity and ethos of the school. Due to the political agenda that all schools will become an academy we feel that we need to take action now in order to allow us to be in control of the future of the school.

As an Academy our funding would change slightly as it would come directly from the DfE rather than the Local Authority. We would join over 5000 other schools that have successfully converted and be in a better position to manage the school in the way we want and the way we need to in order to continue providing a nurture based education with the absolute best value-added learning experiences possible. Equally as important to consider is the real risk of not converting and being ultimately forced to join another Academy chain or Multi Academy Trust (MAT); one who more than likely does not share our values and ethos. The only way Knypersley First School is currently able to convert is to join a MAT of our choosing or create our own.

After a speaking with other local MAT's we have decided to create the Children First Learning Partnership which includes Reginald Mitchell Primary, Oxhey First and Kingsfield First who we already have very strong collaborative relationships with.

Part of the Academy conversion process is for us to consult with you as parents. We want to hear your suggestions and opinions. Please visit the school's website at www.knypersley.staffs.sch.uk where you'll find a Frequently Asked Questions document. Please can I ask you to read this and, if you have any other questions email consultation@childrenfirstlp.org.uk as soon as possible, consultation closes at 12 noon on Monday 28th January 2019. If you'd like a hard copy of this document please call in at the school office and a copy will be printed for you.

In order to continue ensure that Knypersley First School continues with its current ethos and is able to remain as a community school for all our children both now and in the future, I firmly believe that conversion to Academy status as part of our own Multi Academy Trust represents the best course of action for our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Chell, Chair of Governors