

15th February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers and other stakeholders,

Werrington Primary School has continued to maintain high standards of achievement keeping pace with the recent increased expectations of the new testing and assessment regime and curriculum reforms. The Regional School's Commissioner Dr Tim Coulson acknowledged this achievement in his letter to school dated 27th September 2016. We were delighted to be placed at the very top of the Peterborough Primary School League Table for 2016.

Our school is proud to have developed a curriculum that is interesting and inspirational, which has a wealth of wider curricular activities and visits/visitors and other experiences. This ensures a broad education which develops the key skills and attributes to enable our pupils to be successful, confident, responsible and independent members of the school community and in time wider society. Most importantly, this success is driven by the skill, expertise and commitment of all our staff who work relentlessly to ensure all our pupils can be the very best they can be.

However, in an increasingly challenging and changing educational landscape where the role of the Local Authority and its funding for school improvement amongst other aspects of its work is rapidly diminishing, combined with the introduction of a National Funding Formula, we recognise that to maintain our high standards and continue to improve the performance of our school still further, we need a sustainable plan.

Werrington Primary School has experienced first-hand the benefits of close collaboration with other schools on a range of projects including assessment reform, inter school moderation and standardisation, system leadership development and curriculum innovation. The Governors and Headteacher wish to propose taking advantage of appropriate opportunities to deepen school-to-school partnerships for even greater impact and with this in mind we have been in discussion with colleagues from other schools about forming a new, more sustainable partnership. To enable this school led system and the freedoms which result from it, conversion to academy status and formation of a Multi Academy Trust is required.

The DFE (Department For Education) have made further reforms regarding the Academy Programme as well as encouraging collaboration through a school led system and Multi Academy Trusts. The Governing Body and the leadership team have been considering carefully the future strategy for the school. It is proposed that Werrington Primary School as a member of the Soke Cluster of schools, working with Wittering Primary School and another primary school (to be confirmed) who have a similar ethos and values, lead in the formation of a Multi Academy Trust. It is proposed that Mr Wilding - Headteacher of Werrington Primary School would fulfil Executive Headteacher/CEO role for the Trust. All of the schools are uniquely great, have Good Ofsted Inspection judgements and are able to demonstrate sustained achievement over time. The school led system requires a Multi Academy Trust to formally support schools identified by the DFE. This would be brokered through the Regional Schools Commissioner. Werrington Primary School has a great deal of experience working with other schools including Mr Wilding - Local Leader of Education working with the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Local Authorities and identified schools requiring support, Professional Partner for new Headteachers and Mrs Threadgill - Peterborough Local Authority Moderator.

The purpose of the Soke Multi Academy Trust would be to create a collaborative community of schools able to strengthen and sustain the quality of education we provide for our pupils through effective collaboration while retaining our individual ethos and approach. Governors believe the Soke Multi Academy Trust will enable member schools, together, to strengthen and flourish for the benefit of all our pupils, staff and the communities we each serve.

The visions, values and organisation of the proposed Soke Multi Academy Trust are set out in the consultation document – Consulting on Establishing the Soke Multi Academy Trust.

What are the implications of creating the new Multi Academy Trust?

To create a Multi Academy Trust each school would be required to convert to Academy Status with a funding agreement with the Education Funding Agency (DFE). This would mean the school would no longer be maintained by the Local Authority but directly by the Department For Education.

The following factors have been carefully considered in developing this proposal:

Learning outcomes/opportunities & teaching, staffing, finance, governance, sponsorship of a support school. The governing body remains absolutely committed to our role as a village primary school, offering a great education to all learners in our community. We believe that creating the new Trust and being a founding school will allow us the best opportunity to maintain and further develop the outstanding provision which we currently offer for all of our pupils.

Our Aims

We want our school to:

- keep its unique ethos, values, culture and local governance
- strengthen and sustain the quality of the education and opportunities we provide for our pupils
- retain, develop and recruit the best teaching and support staff
- make the most effective use of our funding and resources to meet the needs of all our pupils.

Some important matters would not change if we were to become a founding part of the Multi Academy Trust

1. We will continue to be named Werrington Primary School and our uniform and logo will not change;
2. The curriculum, after school clubs, pastoral support and general organisation of the school day will not be affected;
3. The teaching, resources, staffing will transfer as they are. The employment rights of all members of staff will be protected by TUPE Regulations which came into force in 2006.

The Consultation

We are conscious that this is a significant decision for Werrington Primary School and before an application is completed we would like to invite you to take part in a consultation process which will conclude on 22nd March 2017. The documents can be found on the school website (www.werringtonprimaryschool.co.uk).

You can engage in this by:

1. Completing the consultation form and dropping it into the school office or emailing your response to a dedicated Governor email address: governors@werrington.peterborough.sch.uk
2. Attending a Parent/Carer Information Evening at school on Wednesday 8th March 6.00pm where you will have an opportunity to ask questions. Please let the school know you plan to attend so that appropriate seating can be arranged.

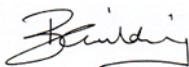
Following the completion of the consultation, an extraordinary Full Governing Body meeting will take place allowing the outcomes of the consultation to be discussed and a decision will be made as to whether to proceed.

We look forward to receiving your views.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Milburn
Chair of Governors



Mr B Wilding
Headteacher

**WERRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND
ESTABLISH THE SOKE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

QUESTIONNAIRE

About you (Please tick one that applies to you)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent / Carer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support staff | | |

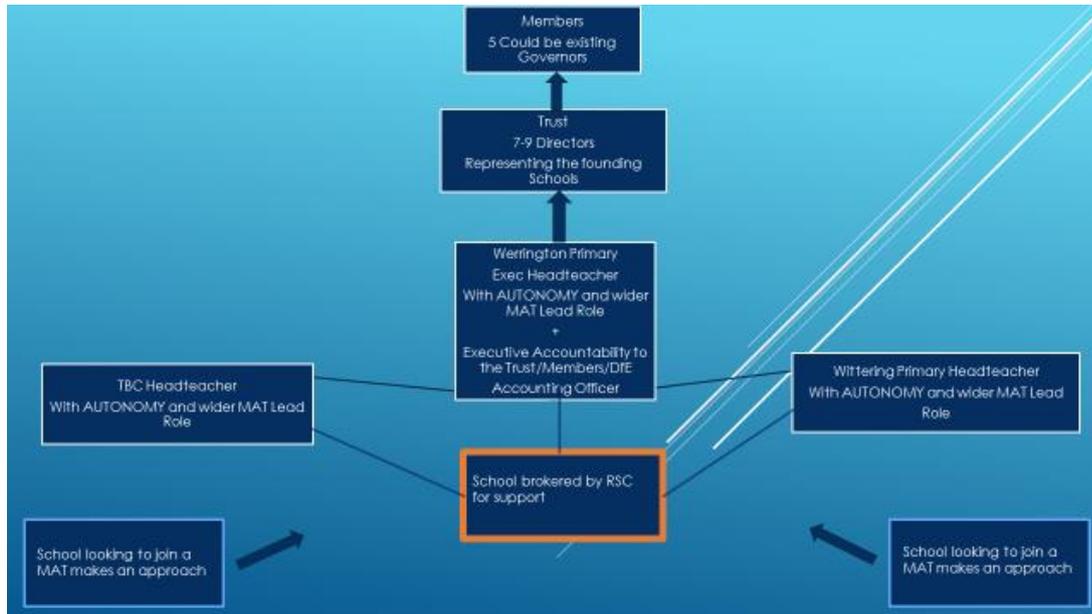
1. *What do you like about our School?*

2. *Is there anything you would like to say about the proposal?*

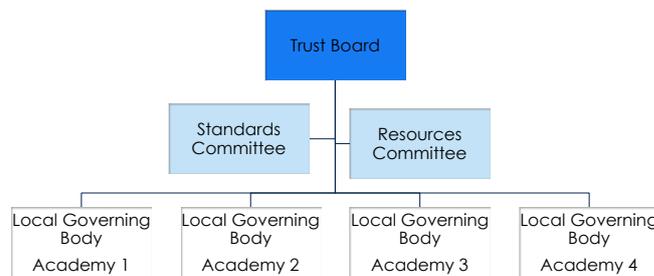
3. *Do you have any questions for the Governors regarding the proposal?*
(All questions will be responded to via a Response to Questions document. Please use the space below.)

On completion of this questionnaire, we would ask you to either drop it into the school office, respond via the Governor email or post it to the school by Wednesday 22nd March 2017. Thank you for your feedback.

Proposed organisation of the Soke Multi Academy Trust



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE & SCHEME OF DELEGATION – POSSIBLE MODEL



Three uniquely great schools and communities

One VISION - Collaborating to be the very best we can be

Enabling all children to succeed

Wider System Leadership – sharing expertise and excellence

Supporting others – moral leadership

Taking control – in the driving seat of a school led system