



WESTBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Skinner Lane BRADFORD West Yorkshire BD8 7PL

Tel: 01274 483138 Fax: 01274 773328

e-mail: office@westbourne.bradford.sch.uk

Website Address: www.westbourne.bradford.sch.uk

Twitter: @westbourne_bfd

Head Teacher: Ms B Wardle

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For the attention of:
Parents/Carers of pupils at
Westbourne Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposal to convert to academy status in partnership

The Governing Body of Westbourne Primary School is requesting your comments on the proposal for our school to convert to academy status and establish a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) to help deliver outstanding education for our children. The proposed name of the MAT would be the **Priestley Academy Trust**.

Government policy has now been for a number of years, to encourage effective schools to become academies from both the primary and secondary sector. As the Local Authority budget is reduced it is under pressure to provide school services in the future.

The initial members of the proposed new Priestley Academy Trust will be:

- Atlas Community Primary School
- Green Lane Primary School
- Lilycroft Primary School
- Lister Primary School
- Margaret McMillan Primary School
- Westbourne Primary School

Some of the benefits of forming a MAT for our school and Trust include:

- Create a local solution in providing outstanding education
- Increase the flexibility of use of our school budget and funds which are currently allocated to the Local Authority to give us more freedom to spend on priorities of the school and our students
- Work together to increase our capacity for embedding and sustaining real school improvement for the benefit of all our learners
- Create a partnership of true equals which allows partner schools to work together and play to their strengths whilst preserving their individual ethos and culture
- Embrace the new freedoms that academy status brings eg determining the curriculum, length of school day and holidays etc



- Maximise, nurture and build upon the expertise of our current staff to create a pool of highly effective practitioners across the board
- Secure financial freedom and deploy funds, currently top sliced and held by the Local Authority centrally, directly for the benefit of our children

Each school in the Priestley Academy Trust will retain its name and will retain a degree of autonomy at the same time benefiting from being part of the Trust. There would also be more opportunities for all the schools in the Trust to share resources and for the children and staff to work together across all our schools.

The Priestley Academy Trust will act as a dynamic community hub for leadership and learning through our inspirational 'Be the Change' ethos. The vision is to offer an outstanding, holistic, transformational learning experience for each student with a strong emphasis on academic excellence, character development and public service.

Our mission is to develop all our students as academic and as well rounded, characterful young people, equipped with the understanding, attitudes, skills and behaviours necessary to succeed in life. We will strive to ensure they are prepared to succeed in higher education, employment and entrepreneurship and within the family by offering a holistic educational experience.

The Governing Body has therefore agreed to consult on establishing the Trust with a view to converting to academy status from 1 October 2016. This consultation is open to all, including parents, staff, pre-school and the wider community. We want to hear your views and establish if there is any significant objection for the Governing Body to take into account when making its final decision. The consultation period will end at 17:00 on Sunday 10 July 2016. There will be an opportunity for you to come and hear more about the proposal and to ask questions on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at 09:00 or complete the enclosed Academy Consultation form and return to the school office no later than Sunday 10 July 2016.

How can I find out more?

There is more information about MAT academies on the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk/academies.

I have also attached a frequently asked question (FAQ) sheet to explain more about what becoming an academy would mean for our school.

The closing date for representations to be made Sunday 10 July 2016. Representations can also be made in writing to the Chair of Governors via the school. The Governing Body will meet shortly after the closing date to discuss the consultation responses and to make decisions about the way forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We look forward to hearing your views.

Yours faithfully



Ros Garside
Chair of Governors

