

Cheswardine Primary and Nursery School

Glebe Close, Cheswardine, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2RU

E-mail: admin@cheswardine.shropshire.sch.uk

Web: www.cheswardineschool.org.uk

Telephone/fax: (01630) 661233

Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Williams



Reach for the Stars

9.6.23

Dear parents/carers and members of the local community,

Consultation to Convert to Academy Status

You may well be aware that the Government is encouraging all schools to convert to Academy status by 2030. After many years of consideration, the School's Governing Body has decided that they wish to convert to Academy status and, in particular, are looking to join an established Multi-Academy Trust. We are writing to consult with staff, parents, local community groups including parish councils and the church to invite your views on the matter.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded state schools that are independent of the Local Authority and receive funding directly from Central Government. As an increasing number of schools in our local area academise the Local Authority support is dwindling and by joining an established, successful Multi-Academy Trust we feel we would ensure we continue to grow and improve across the Federation.

Why is this being considered?

Hinstock has just gained a good in their latest OFSTED inspection. Cheswardine presently retains the Requires Improvement grade from 2019. The DFE (Department for Education) feel Cheswardine's way forward is through being sponsored by a Multi Academy Trust. The governors believe our two communities are stronger as a Federation and therefore wish to join a Trust together to ensure the successful partnership continues to grow in a supportive atmosphere of improvement for both schools. The governors have been proactive in examining what local trusts have to offer and believe that the most effective Trust to join presently would be '[Collective Vision Trust](#)'. This Trust is based in Newcastle Under Lyme, has a good record of improvement and believes strongly in community and maintaining the identities of the schools that join the Trust. As we are two rural community schools who feel our identities should be preserved we feel we would benefit from joining a Trust with these views at their core.

What are the advantages of conversion?

The Government is clear that the greater freedoms enjoyed by Academies are designed to allow schools to develop and to build on individual strengths in response to the needs of the community. We feel that the additional freedoms and flexibilities would enable the Governors to better secure the long-term future of our Schools.

In addition to this we believe that joining Collective Vision Trust will have a number of benefits for both schools. Some benefits include a more targeted approach to strengthening improvement



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through widening experiences and the pooling of resources, including technology. Also joining would lead to improved management practices and management support within the schools as well as increased financial flexibility and better management of buildings and land for the benefit of children attending the schools.

What are the disadvantages of conversion?

Some changes to the way systems work across the schools and a more structured support structure, which will be different from the way the school currently works. No support from the Local Authority unless specific services are bought into. The Trust will be able to change working practices but this would only be done to improve the educational offer.

Will any changes to the School be made as a result of conversion?

Both schools will retain their individual characters and the Federation's vision and values. The schools are integral to their communities and will maintain their family atmospheres and integral goal of putting children first.

How to take part in the consultation process

We are consulting with everyone associated with our School before Governors apply to convert.

We would ask that you let us have your views and/or questions by emailing governors@hinstock.shropshire.sch.uk by Monday 19th June 2023 at 3:30pm or anonymously by dropping them into a drop box which will be placed in the foyer of each school.

OR

There will be an open meeting for you to come and raise any queries you may have or make comments about this on **20.6.23 at 6:30pm at Hinstock Primary School**. If you are unable to make this meeting but would like to ask any questions or make any comments please email to the address given above.

The consultation will close on 21.6.23.

Yours sincerely,



Chair of Governors

REWilliam

Executive Headteacher



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