



## HORSLEY WOODHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Derbyshire  
DE7 6AT

Telephone & Fax No 01332 880403  
Headteacher Mrs Peach



20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

The Governors and Head teacher at Horsley Woodhouse Primary School are incredibly proud of our culture, character, environment and the quality of education we provide for our children. Over recent years, there has been an increasing Government expectation that all schools consider their future challenges and whether becoming a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) secures the best outcomes for our children's education.

A MAT is a group of schools, formally joining together to collaborate in improving and sustaining high educational standards for our children. There are several approaches that can be taken. Consideration to a model which best suits the ethos of the school, the requirements of the children and the demands of our local community seems a sensible thing to do.

Due to the government expectation for the future of schools and the current options available to Horsley Woodhouse Primary School, the Governors, have been exploring the opportunity of creating our own MAT with local schools of similar ethos and vision. Smalley Richardson Endowed and Kilburn Junior School have asked us, along with 4 other schools, to consider joining their aspirations of forming a MAT. If we were to become a MAT we would no longer be a Derbyshire County Council school. However, we would still be able to purchase services from Derbyshire County Council if they offer the 'best value for money'.

We have not made a decision on becoming a Multi Academy Trust and, I need to assure you, would not make a decision until we have undertaken a full consultation process with all parents, staff and community stakeholders. However, we do need to engage in the various steps associated with the process of becoming a MAT. The first step is to look at how schools would be governed within the Trust which would be a Board of Trustees (7 in total) made up from the local communities of the schools within the MAT. The Trustees need to be appointed before we can consult with you and be part of the application processes. I appreciate this feels the wrong way around, but the steps are dictated by Government and we must follow it.

Therefore, you have the opportunity to become a Trustee of the MAT. If you are interested, further information and an application form is available from the school office. Governors and I are available to discuss any aspect in more detail.

When we reach the point where we can consult, you will be provided with all the necessary information, documentation, opportunity and time to question any proposal. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about MATs, the following link provides a good overview.  
<https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/services/academies/academy-conversion/multi-academy-trust-faqs/>

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require further information.

Yours sincerely

Liz Peach  
Headteacher

Steve Bramley  
Chair of Governors