



10 September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are writing to let you know that the governing boards of Boldmere Infant and Nursery, Boldmere Juniors, Holland House Infant and Nursery, Minworth Junior and Infant, New Oscott Primary and Penns Primary, who currently work in collaboration as “North Schools”, have passed a resolution that they intend to apply to become a multi-academy trust (MAT). The decision to convert to an academy has not been taken lightly. Extensive work has been undertaken over the past two years by all of the governing boards of the schools forming the MAT. All governing boards agree that converting to academy status while we have the opportunity and autonomy to decide how we do this and with whom, is the most sensible decision for our schools.

We are incredibly proud of what we have already achieved working collaboratively as part of North Schools. We have established trust and secured partnerships that have helped us to improve the outcomes and opportunities for our children, which we aim to develop further within an academy. We therefore, after careful consideration and planning, intend to pursue conversion to academy status with schools that share our ethos, values and academisation vision as part of a primary MAT, whilst retaining our own individual character and autonomy.

Our vision is to create outstanding educational environments, where excellence, personalised learning and enrichment opportunities allow the development of our children into confident, independent, lifelong learners who are equipped to make a positive contribution and achieve their potential as responsible citizens of the future.

**We aim to achieve this vision by:**

- Using the strength of the partnership to further develop and maintain effective learning communities, involving key partners.
- Maintaining an unrelenting commitment to improving achievement, attainment and aspirations for all children, enabling them to do their best at all times.
- Improving outcomes for all young people in our learning partnership.
- Providing outstanding, memorable learning experiences within an enriched and personalised curriculum.
- Achieving more by schools working together as effective partners rather than working separately.
- Continuing to further develop and build upon long-term and sustainable relationships between our schools.
- Involving more stakeholders in the learning of young people.
- Continuing to promote the values established at our schools.
- Using the skills, strengths and expertise of the partnership skills to drive further school improvement.

**Our preferred format for our proposed MAT is:**

- To establish a primary MAT comprising our 6 schools and look to grow numbers at a later stage.
- To create a structure within the MAT which other schools can engage in, as and when we feel the time is right.

- Conceived as a group of like-minded schools, working in equal partnership to strengthen capacity and support each other in the challenges we are facing in education.
- To implement a structure whereby each school in the proposed MAT would retain its own governing body and its own headteacher, however the schools will operate within the overarching structure of the Trust.
- To appoint an effective Board of Trustees who will support and challenge each schools' continuous improvement and they will play a vital role in overseeing broader strategic issues and financial planning and management across the Trust.
- To appoint a Financial Director to be responsible for negotiating service contracts across the Trust and facilitating the financial and accounting operation of the MAT.
- To commission support services from suitable providers/partners as appropriate.
- To utilise existing skills from within our schools to create strong and sustainable partnership.
- To follow the advice and guidance of the Department of Education at all times when establishing our MAT.
- To enter a partnership which ensures all elements of due diligence have been carried out effectively.

**When and how is this likely to happen?:**

- An average conversion process to a MAT normally takes between 4-6 months.
- It is the intention of each school involved with establishing the MAT to submit an application of conversion of the DfE in the second half of this term.
- The Birmingham MAT team will process the application and present the appropriate supporting documentation to an independent Head Teacher Board (HTB) who scrutinize the validity and quality of this information.
- If cleared by the HTB the application to convert is approved.
- Our schools will then adhere to all correct legal processes and aim to possibly convert to academy status by April 2019.
- Our MAT will be known as Sutton Coldfield Learning Partnership (SCLP).

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in and therefore we would like to invite you to attend an initial information/consultation meeting on Thursday 20 September 2018 at St Johns Church Hall, 4 Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QN. The meeting will start promptly at 6.00 pm and will give you an opportunity to find out more about our proposal to form a MAT. Each Headteacher of the schools proposing to form the MAT will be present at the meeting, so our schools are represented equally.

We look forward to welcoming parents/guardians of our school communities at this joint meeting. In order for us to ensure that we are appropriately organised for this, could you please let us know if you will be attending this meeting by indicating on the form below and return it to your child's school. It would also be very helpful if you could indicate on this form any questions you have for our consideration. Please return the form by Monday 17 September 2018.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our schools. Our governing boards and ourselves are incredibly excited with the formation of our proposed MAT. This conversion to academy status will formalise and strengthen our collaboration as Sutton Coldfield Learning Partnership.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of:

Mr M Sadler

Ms M Jones

Mr C Glasgow

Mrs S Bradford

Mrs A Walklett

**Information/Consultation meeting for parents/guardians of the school's proposing to form a MAT to be known as Sutton Coldfield Learning Partnership.**

**Details as follows:**

Location – St John's Church Hall, 4 Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield. B76 1QN

Time – 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Date – Thursday, 20 September 2018

School representation from – Boldmere Schools, Holland House, Minworth, New Oscott and Penns Primary

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**MAT Meeting – St John's Church Hall**

- I will be attending the meeting on 20 September and will require ..... seats.
- Please indicate below if you have a disability and will require assistance

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Questions for consideration prior to the meeting:

**Please return the completed form to your child's school by 17 September 2018**