

North Stainley C of E Primary School

North Stainley. Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3HT

Tel: 01765 635276

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Headteacher – Mrs Louise Wallen

www.northstainley.n-yorks.sch.uk



*We are our School, we have our roots and foundation in love,
Our School is us; we will grow, blossom and flourish.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a request by a number of parents for further information and clarification on academisation, the school have put together the below information with reference to the consultation letter sent out on the 27th of February.

Why Academize?

In 2021 the Government delivered a white paper that would require all schools in England to become academies. At present, although we are a Church school, we are managed by the Local Authority. Academisation is a process where schools step away from the local authority and become part of a Multi Academy Trust. A Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of schools working together independently of the local authority, managing their own schools including budgets and finances.

The growth in the number of multi academy trusts across the country has impacted on local authorities financially and as a result services provided by local authorities to schools have diminished and continue to do so.

Why choose the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)?

As a Church of England Primary School, we are slightly restricted and can only become part of a MAT of other Church of England Schools. Therefore, when the white paper was delivered in 2021 the Governors on behalf of the school began to explore our options.

Our school is part of the Ripon Rural Cluster of schools, this comprises of 11 other village schools within our local area; all of these schools have similarities and common goals. For a number of years as a result of the decline of the Local Authority (and particularly during the Pandemic) we have relied heavily upon each other for support. When members of the Leeds Diocese, led by Richard Noakes approached the cluster with the idea of the LDLT, governors began to explore this option further. This MAT would include some, if not all, schools from the Ripon Rural Cluster along with other Church schools from the City of Ripon. Together, they would make a locality hub, whilst other locality hubs in Skipton and Leeds would further increase the size and influence of the LDLT.

Governors investigated the pro's and con's of joining the LDLT over a number of months and eventually decided to move this forward in July 2022. The Government has now begun to back track on the initial white paper in November 2022, however the governors are continuing with this journey. The decision by Governors was not and is still not a commitment to join the MAT. Before committing to joining the MAT there are many different steps and processes that have to be completed and approved - this includes agreement from the DFE, agreement from the DBE, due diligence from the trust

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and from the school, consultation and agreement by the majority of the stakeholders (you).

What are the advantages of choosing this MAT now?

Governors are seeking a long-term secure future for the school.

We have valued the benefits of working with our cluster of similar schools in the Ripon area.

Having explored different options, we know that we want to be part of a Trust which values and supports small church schools like ourselves and also one which is locally based and includes some of the schools we already work closely with and which share similar ethos and values.

We believe that the LDLT not only offers this but also offers the opportunity to work with more diverse schools in the different hubs that will eventually connect in the future.

We have been worked alongside the Leeds Diocesan Education Department and the support and training we have received from them in recent years particularly during the pandemic, has been extremely supportive and beneficial to the school.

The vision of the trust is similar to what we want to achieve for our school but also enables us to maintain our own identity, our own uniqueness.

Being a part of this trust as it begins to develop will enable us to map the direction of our school as we go forward into the future.

Why not stay with the Local Authority or choose another MAT?

The LA has not been offering the level of support or the services that it has offered in the past.

Most support from the LA comes at an extra cost.

Other MATs are not local or easily accessible.

They do not share common goals.

They are too corporate, and this could mean that North Stainley loses its individual identity.

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What next?

We hope that this letter has helped to clarify the previous information.
Please respond using the form attached to the original letter.
Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any other questions.

I encourage you to come along to the consultation meeting on the 30th of March where your opinions will be heard and any questions will be answered.

Following consultation there will be some weeks of due diligence to undergo.
Should the school decide to convert to an academy we will aim to do so in September 2023. We would be part of the second wave of schools to convert. The first cohort of schools converted in September 2022, four of which were from our rural cluster.

With my very best wishes,

Nathaniel Potts

Chair of Governors

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