

Bolshaw Primary School

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5th March 2024

Consultation on proposal to convert to academy status in partnership with The Honeycomb Education Trust.

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to inform you about an important decision that Bolshaw Governing Board has been carefully considering regarding the future of our school in an ever-changing and challenging educational landscape.

You may be aware of some of the significant changes and developments in our education system over the last few years. In particular, the Government and Department for Education have been encouraging schools to become part of a 'Multi Academy Trust' (MAT). This intention is also evident in Stockport's School Strategy. Stockport Local Authority, who currently maintain and oversee our school, have begun to actively encourage schools to join a multi academy trust in order to benefit from the greater opportunities they can offer to pupils, staff and school communities by collaborating together for a more successful and sustainable future. The policy developing MATs, now means that there are more children across the country taught in MATs rather than in local authority maintained schools.

The Governors and Headteacher of Bolshaw Primary School are charged with the responsibility of ensuring children receive the best education offer possible for now and the future. Consequently, the Governing Board has discussed education policy on numerous occasions.

As a 'good' school we are in a position to choose if and when to convert to an Academy. Therefore, we must consider the option to convert as part of our duty to continually improve the quality of education we can provide for our children.

After much consideration, we have decided to enter into a period of consultation with relevant stakeholders and this letter provides you with the initial information about our intention to convert to an academy, as part of a MAT and this marks the beginning of our consultation with you.

We are excited at the prospect of becoming part of the Stockport based MAT - **The Honeycomb Education Trust.**

The Honeycomb Education Trust will initially comprise of **Bolshaw Primary School** and **Mellor Primary School**. Joining this trust would give Bolshaw Primary School the opportunity to network with a range of highly experienced professionals, to further develop the education we offer and build a sustainable system to ensure the children of Bolshaw Primary School continue to receive a high quality education offer.

The strength of similarities in ethos, inclusive practice, and approaches to education provide our schools with a strong base from which to build an effective collaboration and partnership. Over the last two terms, we have developed closer links with Mellor Primary School and it is clear that our shared vision, values and philosophy align. In addition, the trust has the strong support of the Regional Director, who is charged with developing the education system in Stockport

We are excited to embark on our new journey and we are keen for our community to be very much part of the discussion, so you can gain full understanding of the positive implications of being part of the Honeycomb Education Trust.

During this term, there will be consultation meetings with staff, pupils and parents. These meetings will be an opportunity for both staff, pupils and parents to come along and share thoughts, observations and views, as well as ask questions about conversion. We would like to begin the consultation process and invite you to share your views and ask any questions you may have.

There are a number of ways in which you can take part in this consultation:

- By completing our online consultation accessed via your School Spider App. Our Governing Board would particularly welcome your views about what you think the advantages of joining the Honeycomb Education Trust will be, any concerns you may have and any areas you would welcome further information about. The online consultation begins today and ends Tuesday 12th March at 12pm.
- By attending an open meeting on **Thursday 14th March at 5.30pm** in our school hall. Our Governing Board will be available to share information on the decision for consultation and answer any questions you may have.

We invite you to read our answers to FAQs document about this consultation, to help you gain a comprehensive understanding of the proposal. Our FAQs can be found on our website and also attached to this email. We will update this area of the school website with further common questions that have been asked and their answers

This is a very important and exciting opportunity to shape the future of Bolshaw Primary School and continue to deliver a quality education, improving learning outcomes for all our children.

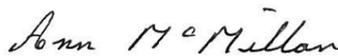
The Governing Board and Leadership Team put high importance on the relationship with our families and for that reason your feedback and views really count. Please be assured that we will work together to ensure that this decision is in the best interests of the present and future children within our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Lynda Brown
Headteacher



Ann McMillan
Co-Chair of Governors



Shakila Hussain
Co-Chair of Governors