

9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders

### **Consultation to become an Academy within a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)**

Governors are proposing that Overdale Junior School becomes an academy and joins with a group of other schools to form a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) called **OAK Trust**.

These schools will be equal partners within the MAT:

Brookside Primary School  
Manor High School  
Overdale Infant School  
Overdale Junior School  
Woodland Grange Primary School

In considering conversion to academy status and forming a MAT, the over-riding concerns of governors are to ensure that our school continues to provide the best possible standard of education and care for our children. With this in mind, your views are important to us and we are extremely keen to hear your thoughts.

### **Key points of converting to Academy status within a Multi-Academy Trust**

- Our school will retain its character and will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now with the same uniform, school name, school times, holiday pattern and admission policy. Most of the changes will be behind the scenes.
- The MAT organisation does not affect your choice of secondary school for your child. We will continue to work closely with all our local schools including all our local secondary schools in areas such as Year 6/Year 7 transition and events
- A Headteacher and Governing Body will continue to lead our school on a daily basis as they do now and parents will continue to be represented on the Governing Body
- The MAT arrangements will share some services across the schools which will help them be more efficient and make sure that funding is focused on teaching, learning and support for children

Academy status is becoming more common and the Government and local authorities have made clear their intention to encourage/support all schools to become academies by 2022 and in particular for schools to organise themselves within groups. As their budgets are reduced, local authorities are also reducing the services that they have available to schools. Making this change now means that we can choose how we want our school to develop. As local schools, we will continue to have good working relationships with each local authority.

It is our opinion that converting to academy status within a MAT will:

- Help us to develop the highest quality of leadership and management and the highest quality of teaching and learning
- Give us the greater freedoms in developing the school curriculum to make sure that it is personalised to the needs of our pupils, ensuring high expectation and total conviction that all pupils can succeed whatever their circumstances, background or previous level of attainment
- Provide economic benefits such as centralised services and economies of scale
- Enable us to support each other as the support from local authorities reduces
- Increase the flexibility of the school budget and funds which gives us more freedom to spend it to best meet the priorities of the school and pupils
- Provide the opportunity to establish succession planning programmes and in doing so, retaining good staff who might otherwise move on – including head teachers

Governors believe that academy status within a MAT is the best way to support the school in continuing to develop and improve, and that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and this will impact on children's achievement.

There will be a joint meeting with the Infant School at **Overdale Junior School** at **6.30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017** at which you can ask any questions in relation to this change but I have included with this letter some consultation information as well as a list of frequently asked questions will be made available on our website.

Should you wish to respond to the consultation, please return the following form to the school office or email your comments to [admin@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk) with 'Academy/MAT consultation' in the subject line. Alternatively you can respond on-line by using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OAK-MAT>

The link to this survey is also on our website.

Consultation begins from the date of this letter (9<sup>th</sup> March 2017) and will end at 4.00pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017. All responses should be received by this last time and date to be recorded as part of this consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Smith**  
**Chair of Governors Overdale Junior School**

Attached: **Consultation Information**  
**Consultation Response Form**