



22nd June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Proposal for Handsworth Primary School to Convert to Academy Status with REAch2 Multi Academy Trust

1. Introduction

Handsworth Primary School's Governing Body has decided to embark upon a process, which may lead to conversion to academy status. The Governing Body has been investigating and considering all options in relation to academisation for a number of years and, on 10th May 2018, unanimously passed a resolution to begin the academisation process and submitted an application to the Department for Education. This resolution and application starts a period of investigation and consultation – it is not a final decision to convert. Any final decision would only be made after a further governors' meeting at the end of the consultation period.

The target date for conversion to take effect is 1st November 2018. The proposal is that Handsworth Primary School converts into an academy as part of the REAch2 Multi Academy Trust, which is the largest primary-only Multi Academy Trust in England, with almost 60 schools within the REAch2 family.

The formal consultation period runs from Friday 22nd June 2018 until 12 noon on Wednesday 18th July 2018. During this period, the Governing Body will give all key stakeholders the opportunity to give their views and ask questions, including all staff and their recognised trade unions, parents, pupils and the wider community.

2. The Background

The Governing Body took the decision to embark upon the conversion process and potentially join REAch2 for the following reasons:

- To maintain control over the school's destiny in an ever-changing and fragile political education landscape
- To be able to provide better professional development opportunities and training for staff through REAch2
- To be able to provide further regional networking and sharing of best practice opportunities (there are 18 REAch2 schools in the North Central Region)
- To gain better quality support than we are currently receiving as a maintained school

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- To be able to provide career development opportunities for staff within the Reach2 family
- To gain the benefits of economies of scale
- To be able to take advantage of capital funding directly from the Education Funding Agency (EFA)
- To have the opportunity to share Handsworth's excellent practice with other local schools within the REAch2 family.
- REAch2 has a proven track record of school improvement
- We believe the values which REAch2 promote match ours at Handsworth:

REAch2's primary focus is to ensure that all their pupils are provided with the right educational environment which not only inspires them to embrace learning and develop creativity – but also to have fun, make friends, respect individuality and ultimately to reach their full potential.

3. REAch2 Multi Academy Trust

Founded in 2012, REAch2 Academy Trust is the largest primary-only academy trust in the country. It is a growing charitable organisation currently supporting almost 60 primary academies across England. The Cornerstone of REAch2 is a solid, unshakeable foundation, defined by exceptional teaching experiences and shared Touchstone values of learning, leadership, enjoyment, inclusion, inspiration, responsibility and integrity. Further information can be found about REAch2 at www.reach2.org.

4. Consultation

As parents or carers, you are invited to give your views on the academy conversion proposal, and to ask any questions you may have, at any time during the consultation period, by email to governors@handsworth.waltham.sch.uk or by post to the school addressed to 'Academy Consultation'. The Governors have produced a Frequently Asked Questions document, which can be found on the Governors section on the school website. There will also be a drop-in information session, open to all, at which parents or carers are welcome to ask questions and give their views.

Yours sincerely,

The Governing Body
Handsworth Primary School

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