



Rothwell Victoria Infant School



CARE SHARE
HELP SMILE

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22nd November 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Frequently Asked Questions re Conversion to Academy Status (www.education.gov.uk/academies) for your information.

Do you want to know more?

Come along to a meeting in the school hall at Rothwell Junior School on Monday 26th November at 6:00 p.m.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly-funded schools which operate outside of Local Authority (LA) control. They receive their funding directly from central Government, rather than via a LA, giving them more freedom over how they spend their budget and manage their curriculum.

Are lots of schools converting?

The numbers have increased over the past two years - and are likely to continue to do so, especially since cuts in Local Authority budgets which have had a significant effect on the traditionally centrally-held support services offered to schools. Locally, Montsaye has already converted and 4 other local schools (Havelock Junior, Havelock Infants, Loatlands Primary and Rushton Primary) have already agreed to become Academies and then join together to form a Multi Academy Trust with Montsaye.

Why is the Governing Body of Rothwell Victoria Primary Learning Partnership (RVPLP) considering converting both schools to become academies?

Now that the RVPLP Federation is successfully in place the Governing Body is looking to the future direction of our school community.

The success of the RVPLP has been down to sharing of expertise and joint working across both schools along with the Children Centre. With the reduction of Local Authority (LA) support we need to look to how we continue to secure school improvement.

Working with our partner schools locally, in the same way the two schools in Rothwell are currently working together, seems a logical way to proceed. Joining a Multi Academy Trust

with our local partners should enable further benefits to the RVPLP both in terms of securing improvement and supporting business functions.

What actually happens if the two schools within the Rothwell Victoria Primary Learning Partnership decide, after consultation, to convert to become Academies?

The schools will apply to the DfE for Academy status approval, and once this is granted it then enters a formal transformation process, receiving financial support from the Government to do so. Solicitors and Academy experts will be required to action the necessary legal and financial changes, including the setting up of an Academy as part of a Multi Academy Trust which will oversee the school's financial and legal affairs. The Governing Body rather than the local authority becomes the employer and ultimately responsible for the school.

What changes will I notice within the RVPLP if the two schools convert to become Academies?

Day-to-day you probably won't notice any changes: the school day will remain the same; school uniform will stay the same; school staff will remain in post; the focus we have on an engaging curriculum and on promoting values and promoting high standards of learning will remain the same. The changes are more 'behind the scenes' with things like: ownership and upkeep of the buildings; development of policies and more control over our own resources / budget.

What's the timescale?

The consultation period began on Wednesday 13th November and will close on Friday 7th December with your response, if you wish to make one, sent into school by the closing date. The Governing Body will then review the responses and produce a Consultation Summary Document, explaining the outcome of the consultation and the Governors' final decision on conversion. If the decision is taken to proceed, the Governors will work to convert Rothwell Junior School and Rothwell Victoria Infant School to be Academies alongside a time line with other local schools as we seek to form the Multi Academy Trust. The proposed date of conversion would be September 1st 2013.

Is it a complicated process?

There are some complex issues involved in converting a school to Academy status, but financial assistance is available from the Government to enable us to seek help from experts and ensure the right processes are followed and decisions made. We also have support from local cluster schools and by working together we can also achieve economies of scale as well as practical support and advice for stakeholders.

Lee Hurling

Executive Headteacher - RVPLP

