



The Dove Federation



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PARKERS CHURCH OF ENGLAND VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CONSULTATION ON CONVERSION TO ACADEMY STATUS WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH MULTI ACADEMIES TRUST

Parkers Church of England VC Primary School has developed proposals to become an Academy within a larger organisation set up by the Diocese of Norwich called the Diocese of Norwich Multi Academies Trust. Governors believe that this change will enable us to continue to improve the opportunities we provide for children and the community in Saham Toney and will support the school in its future development.

Joining the diocesan trust will mean we can continue as an autonomous school within a group of schools who can support each other and who have shared values. Academy status will change some things behind the scenes but otherwise the local community and our children will see very little difference. The name of the school will change to Parkers Church of England Primary Academy, but the uniform will not change and we will not change term dates or the school's admissions policy.

The proposed date for academy conversion is 1st October 2020.

We want members of our local community to have the opportunity to find out more about what this proposal means. Information is available from the school office (and on the school website). Due to COVID 19 restrictions, it is not possible to hold a face to face meeting with you but if you have questions and comments you would like to make about the school becoming an academy, please write to or email Mrs Sarah Disney at the school by 1st July 2020. Her email address is office@parkers.norfolk.sch.uk

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

PROPOSAL FOR PARKERS CHURCH OF ENGLAND VC PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH EDUCATION ACADEMIES TRUST

What is an Academy?

Academies are state maintained schools free to all children. They have to follow the same rules as all other state-funded schools over admissions, pupils with Special Educational Needs and exclusions. They are still inspected by Ofsted.

Although academies do not have to follow the national curriculum this is unlikely to have any impact on the way that education is currently delivered in the school as a balanced curriculum which is judged against national standards, must be provided. However, we do pride ourselves on our cross age and cross-curricular working and feel that we might have the opportunity to develop this further, particularly as we have the chance to work alongside other smaller schools within the Trust.

Not all academies are the same. We see no need for change to the day to day running of our school and we think that becoming an academy now within the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust is the best way to ensure that we can do that.

What is the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust?

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) has been established by the Diocese of Norwich as a company to be responsible for a number of academies. The Directors have an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to support and manage a number of individual academies. DNEAT offers "A safe haven for schools wishing to preserve their Christian heritage, ethos and values; maintain their distinct identity, character and autonomy; prize their place and contribution within the pattern of local provision through inclusive service to their community; and to continue to celebrate an holistic approach to educating and developing the whole child"

The Directors of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust are appointed by the Diocese of Norwich. The Trust also provides a range of services for its academies, including finance and HR support and meetings for head teachers and governing bodies to support them in continuing to improve outcomes for pupils.

Responsibility for leadership and management of each academy remains with the governing body and the head teacher. DNEAT maintains Local Governing Bodies, which includes staff and parent governors, in all of its academies. As within any Multi Academy Trust overall responsibility for governance sits with Trustees. There will continue to be elected parent and staff governors.

What impact will this have on Parkers Church of England VC Primary School?

Governors believe this will have a very positive impact and we are confident the relationship and benefits will develop over time. Membership of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust will help to secure the future of our school. Parkers Church of England VC Primary School has always valued the close relationship with the church - our links are close

and strong. Becoming an academy within a Church Trust would support and strengthen these links.

We will not make any major changes. Although the school will be called Parkers Church of England Primary Academy, there will be no change to the uniform, the admissions arrangements or to the times of the school day or terms. All children and all members of staff will continue to be part of the school.

So why make the change?

Academy status gives us some additional flexibility in deciding how best to meet the needs of our children. The Government has made clear that it believes all schools should convert to academy status and we want to manage how that happens for our school.

When will these changes take place?

We want to know what parents and the local community think about this proposal. The next few months will be very busy as we continue to seek guidance and clarification, including meetings with the local authority, analysis and settlement of accounts and budgets, negotiation of key support services, financial preparation and asset registration and legal matters. The Trust will support us in these processes and if all goes well we anticipate conversion will take place on the 1st October 2020.

How can I find out more?

If you have any specific comments or questions about the academy conversion or what this will mean for our school and children, please email the headteacher Mrs Sarah Disney email office@parkers.norfolk.sch.uk by 1st July 2020 and we will respond.