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Head Teacher: Mrs A M Leach
Administrator: Mrs T Daghish

September 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Academy Conversion Consultation

Governors at Wharncliffe Side Primary School have taken the decision to initiate the consultation process regarding setting up an Academy Trust with like-minded partner schools. This could provide us with further opportunity for growth during challenging times and ultimately benefit our children by enhancing and deepening our provision. The Governing Body believes that this is an exciting opportunity for the school.

We believe the best way forward for the future of our children and their education and welfare is to create a local multi-academy trust based on the shared values of Trust, Collaboration, Ambition, Responsibility and Innovation and for us to convert to academy status together with our Primary Family of Schools which comprises Bradfield Dungworth Primary School, Loxley Primary School, Nook Lane Junior School, Oughtibridge Primary School, Stannington Infant School and Wharncliffe Side Primary School. As schools firmly rooted in our communities, we intend to remain outward focussed, maintaining our partnerships while developing new approaches to working together.

The Governing Boards been considering and discussing future plans in a fast changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape. They have also taken note of the current Government policy and the intention that all schools become academies. Following a period of research by members of the Governing Boards, discussions with Learn Sheffield and having met a range of local Multi Academy Trusts, the Governing Bodies are now at the stage of formal consultation with all stakeholders.

We wish to seek views of all of our community to inform our final decision. To support parents / carers in developing their knowledge and understanding of what is involved in becoming an academy we have prepared a questions and answers information booklet which is included with this letter and is also available in school.

You will note that included in the document is a response sheet which we strongly encourage you to complete and return to us by 9am on Friday 10th November 2017 in order that your opinions are considered in the consultation process.

To further support your participation in the consultation we invite you to attend a meeting where you will be able to discuss Academy status with Governors and the Headteacher. This will also be an opportunity to ask any questions. The meeting will start at 6.00 on Monday 25th September.

We have already begun to discuss academy status with staff in school, and will also include students and members of the wider community in the consultation process. In order that we gather as broad and deep a range of opinions as possible, we strongly urge you to participate by attending the organised drop in sessions and / or completing the response sheet at the back of the question and answer booklet.

We look forward to speaking with you soon and to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely

David Willington
Chair of Governors

Ann Leach
Headteacher