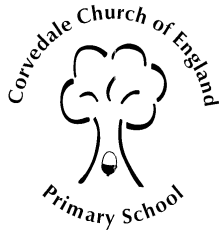


Corvedale CE Primary School

Diddlebury, Craven Arms, Shropshire. SY7 9DH



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Headteacher: Mr. J. Brough
Chair of Governors: Mr. D. Hedgley

03 May 2018

To all stakeholders

CONSULTATION CONSIDERING CHANGE TO ACADEMY STATUS

You may remember in recent newsletters, we informed you that the governors were exploring academy options with the Bishop Anthony Educational trust being the preferred option. We are writing to you as part of our consultation towards joining a growing number of "Good" and "Outstanding" schools that have converted to become an Academy.

Our school has been recognised through external assessment as progressing well. This is evidenced by data showing continuous improvement. Before we move forward we must carefully consider your views on whether converting would be in the best interests of our shared school community both present and future. The most important part of this shared school community is our children and we are committed to continually raising the standards and the learning experience of our pupils. Please take a moment to read this letter, which is also available on the school website. If you wish to respond we would be only too pleased to hear from you. Details of how to do this are at the end of the letter.

What is an Academy?

An Academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the State. It is independent of the Local Authority (i.e. Shropshire Council) and receives its funding directly from central government. In certain parts of the country, schools which had poor results or otherwise needed to improve significantly, have been changed to Academies. There are however many "Good" and "Outstanding" schools which have converted to gain the additional flexibility around curriculum and finances. The government now wish for most schools to become academies over the next few years and we have worked proactively to determine the best future for our school.

Why should Corvedale Primary School convert to become an Academy?

The key to our thinking is planning for the future and ensuring our children continue to receive the best education now and in years to come. The recent cost cutting at Shropshire Council has had a huge impact on both the quality and the quantity of the services we can obtain from it. As an academy we will be financially self-determining and we believe that by working together with other local schools, as part of a Multi Academy Trust, we can secure better quality services for our children.

Whilst still subject to end of key stage testing (SATs) to ensure standards are maintained, a school with Academy status has much greater freedom in how the curriculum is tailored to suit the school's individual circumstances and in its ability to undertake innovative projects.

The Bishop Anthony Educational Trust

After governors agreed that it was in our best interests to discuss the possibility of academy conversion we examined several models. Sourcing and tendering for all the requisite services to run a school (e.g. payroll, finance systems, auditors) is time-consuming and expensive. The Diocese of Hereford has already set up a Multi-Academy Trust, The Bishop Anthony Educational Trust (BAET). The BAET provides support services for academies and has the capacity to support and challenge schools. As a church school, we would not be expected to change our culture or ethos which restricted certain options. In the longer term the BAET plan is to establish a hub structure similar to our existing Federation of Ludlow Schools allowing schools to work more closely together if and when they choose to join the BAET. At present many local schools in the Federation are already in the BAET. In addition the BAET would provide Corvedale Primary School with benefits such as economies of scale and support similar to that previously given by the Local Authority.

What next?

The period of consultation with all of the key stakeholders will be running from Thursday 3rd May to Friday 25th May. The Governors have considered every option in detail and are fully satisfied that the proposal is the right direction for Corvedale Primary School. We will also offer stakeholders the opportunity to ask any outstanding questions at school which are not answered by the Frequently Asked Questions on Thursday 17th May, starting at 6.00pm at school. A representative of the BAET will also attend.

Attached to this letter is a response document through which you can make your opinions or questions known to us or you can email us at admin@corvedaleprimary.co.uk

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies>

Please feel free to ask us any questions that you have regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Brough Mr. D. Hedgley
Head teacher Chair of Governors.

Corvedale Primary School.

Response to consultation on change of status to an Academy as part of the BAET

Please tick who you represent

Parent

Teacher

Other Staff

CCfC

Other (please describe)

Your comments;