



PARKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEANWOOD DRIVE
RAINHAM, KENT
ME8 9LP
HEADTEACHER: MRS MCCORMACK



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Dear Parents/Carers,

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS

Parkwood Primary School's governing body have been looking into academisation and joining a multi-academy trust for some time now. After considering other trusts, we are proposing that our school should convert to academy status within The Primary First Trust (PFT) on 1st January 2025. Our relationship with The PFT began in 2023 during our search for the right trust. We have visited their schools, attended trust meetings and have benefited from their guidance and service. We feel that this really is the right match for our community.

We are choosing this change as a positive step for our school. As a governing body, we want the school to be part of a group of schools which can support each other. We considered, in much detail including numerous visits and meetings, several different trusts before reaching our decision and we believe that academy status within The PFT is the best way to support our school to develop and improve. Joining The PFT will give us high quality support for school development and the opportunity to share and develop good practice with other PFT schools. Working together within the trust would bring benefits to teaching and learning and The PFT will provide staff with many opportunities for professional development and the chance to work with colleagues in other trust schools. However, you will see little visible difference if we become an academy. The school's name will not change and we will not change the uniform or term dates. All children and staff will continue to be part of the school as they are now.

Lorna Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer of The Primary First Trust, will be writing to you separately to introduce the trust and give you more information about the work that they do. There will also be an opportunity for you to meet her and the trust team in the coming weeks and we will provide information on that date as soon as we have it.

Consultation for conversion to academy status will last approximately six weeks and will follow an agreed process:

- A letter to all staff and parents opening the consultation period (this letter)
- A page will be established on the school website dedicated to the consultation process.
- We will include other information and answers to frequently asked questions on the page.

You can use the form [here](#) to ask questions and we encourage you to do so. Those questions will feed into the FAQ.



How can I give my views?

On Tuesday, 8th October, once you have had time to ask questions and find out more about The PFT, a further letter will be sent which will include a link to a questionnaire to enable you to give your views. Governors will take all views into account when deciding whether to proceed to academy status within The PFT. Any comments should be submitted by Friday, 15th November 2024, the end of the consultation period.

Following the consultation period, the governing body will consider all of the feedback and views it has received during the consultation and will then make the final decision on whether to complete the process. We will write to inform you of our decision.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Pollard and Nabil Mugharbel
Co-Chairs of Governors
Parkwood Primary School