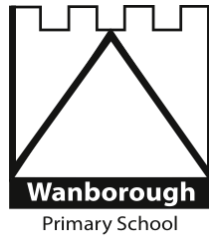


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Wanborough Primary School
The Beanlands
Wanborough
Swindon, Wiltshire
SN4 0EJ

24th November 2023

Dear members of the community,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the school's Governing Body have been considering the possibility of converting the school to academy status over the last year.

A Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company established to be responsible for a number of academies. Academies are state maintained schools free to all children. They are run separately to the Local Authority and have an agreement with the Government which provides funding directly to the Academy Trust. They follow the same rules as all other state funded schools over admissions, pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and exclusions. They are inspected by Ofsted.

A significant period of research has been undertaken by Governors and, following the unanimous agreement of the Governing Body and senior leaders, Wanborough Primary School is now actively pursuing conversion to academy status. Please be aware, this is not an 'enforced' change but has been led by a working party of governors, and subsequently agreed by the full governing board, many of whom are parents of children at our school.

Governors believe that at a time of significant change within education we would like to retain full control over the future direction of our school ensuring that Wanborough Primary School retains its unique character and ethos during this time and into the long-term future so that we continue to offer the very best for our children and community.

In reaching our decision, we have considered several options and have spoken to leaders from several Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and maintained school collaborations. After full and careful consideration, we are currently exploring one such Trust in greater detail, the Blue Kite Multi Academy Trust. This is an established and respected local Trust which is – and has stated its intention to remain – Swindon based. The final decision has not been made, but the expectation is that we will join Blue Kite should all due diligence and consultation prove successful.

The ethos of Blue Kite MAT is one that matches ours, and their proven track record is undoubtedly driven by the fact that they want the best for all children, just as we do. We have already worked closely with the Trust through using their Lighthouse services to support our pastoral work. Key leaders have also participated in training and staff development events.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team at Wanborough Primary School remain totally committed to ensuring that our school continues to focus on meeting children's needs first, placing them at the heart of our decision making and ensuring that we continue to provide the very highest standards of learning and teaching.

By joining Blue Kite Multi Academy Trust, we would continue to develop our own school strategies, practice and ideals, whilst also being able to benefit from tapping into the Trust's success; sharing the practices that make them successful.



In time, we – alongside other schools in the Trust – would benefit from the cost savings of centralised services that would in turn allow us to ensure that our budget is spent on supporting our children to give them the greatest opportunities that we can. We would retain our same staff who would also benefit from continuing professional development and learning networks sharing best practice.

We are very keen to consult with the local community and for you to share your views. Please email the school office admin@wanboroughswindon.sch.uk by Friday 5th January 2024 with any points you would like our governing body to consider.

Yours sincerely



Mr Carl Porter
Chair of Governors



Mr Andrew Drury
Head Teacher

