

8th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

You are probably aware that currently we are a maintained foundation school with a foundation established under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, also known as a “Trust School”. The foundation which supports us is called The Wednesbury Learning Community Trust which also supports Albert Pritchard and Wood Green Jnr Federation, Moorlands, Old Park, and Park Hill. We are also part of the wider family of maintained schools within Sandwell.

Under this arrangement the Governing Body is currently the legal employer of staff and also the Admissions Authority for the school. Our land is vested in the Trust which holds our land for the purposes of our school.

We converted to being a Trust School in March 2011 because we believed that becoming a Trust School supported by the Trust would provide us with economies of scale for procurement and ensure that schools worked collaboratively for the children of Wednesbury. The Trust currently appoint one Foundation Governors onto our Governing Body.

For some time our SLT and the Governing Body has been of the opinion that the current status of the school and the work of the Trust no longer meets the needs of our school and the community that it supports. We have therefore been looking at the various options available to us in terms of the legal status of the school including both Academy and becoming a different type of maintained school. After a great deal of thought and discussion, we decided further to explore the option of becoming a foundation school without a foundation, i.e. removing the link with the Trust so that it no longer appoints governors to our Governing Body and no longer holds the land used by our school.

The Governing Body at its meeting on 12th July 18 decided to take this a stage further by agreeing to consult on proposals to become a foundation school without a foundation and remove the Trust as our trust. This Governing Body decision was ratified at a second Governing Body meeting on 6th December 2018

The Governing Body believes that reverting to foundation status and removing the link with the Trust will be in the best interests of the students at the school and the school community as a whole because:

- Harvills Hawthorn will no longer be paying subscriptions to fund running the charity. These are funds can be used to directly support the children of Harvills Hawthorn.
- Management time will be saved, as the need for termly meetings and an AGM would be removed. Head teachers will continue to meet regularly and collaborate.
- Many of the functions of the trust that relate to teacher and pupil collaboration will continue, the responsibility for this will be shared between schools within the Wednesbury learning community.

If the school reverted to foundation status and removed the link to the Trust, the Governing Body would remain the employer of staff working at the school and remain the Admissions Authority. Nothing would change regarding staff's employment or our over-subscription criteria as a result of this change. The Trust would transfer ownership of our land to the Governing Body of the school for them to manage and control (subject to the normal restrictions of education and charity law). Our Governing Body would be reorganised to remove the category of Foundation Governors and remove the right of the Trust to appoint the Foundation Governors. The categories and numbers of parent, staff, local authority and community governors would remain unaffected and the governors currently holding those roles would continue in their roles.

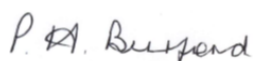
The Governing Body would like to invite comments and representations on the proposal to revert to foundation status and remove the link with the Trust. Representations can be made in an email to office.markham@harvillshawthorn.sandwell.sch.uk or in writing to: Governors, Harvills Hawthorn Primary, Wolseley Road, West Bromwich, B70 0NG. Representations must be received by 8th February 2019 to be considered. After 8th February 2019 the Governing Body will then meet to consider any representations made and decide whether to proceed with the proposal.

If the Governing Body decide to proceed with the proposal it will then enter into a formal six week consultation process by issuing statutory proposals. The school community will have a second opportunity to make representations during that statutory consultation period. At the end of that statutory consultation period the Governing Body will meet again to consider the outcome of the statutory consultation and decide in view of all responses whether to adopt the proposals. If this is decided, the day the School would change status and remove the link with the Trust on 3rd June 2019.

We consider your views to be very important and hope that you are able to help us to determine the best way forward for our school.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact us through the email address and postal address stated above.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Burford
Chair of Governors



Joanne Sheen
Headteacher

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