



26 April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **CONVERSION TO ACADEMY STATUS**

As many of you will be aware most of the schools in Hull are now academies and the services that have been available to us in the past from Hull Education Authority have diminished. The School Governors have been exploring conversion to academy status and would be grateful for your views on whether Marfleet Primary School should become an academy. The Governors believe that this change will enable us to continue to improve the opportunities we provide for your children and support the school in its future development.

The Governors have given careful consideration to becoming an academy and believe that the best course of action will be to join a multi-academy trust – the Ebor Academy Trust. Their ethos 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.

If we become an academy, our relationship with the Ebor Academy Trust means that we will enjoy considerable independence, and maintain our name and ethos, whilst benefiting from collaboration with the Trust. By joining Ebor we will continue to forge our own school strategies and ideals, whilst tapping into the Trust's success and sharing in their good practice. We would benefit from the cost savings of centralised services that will in turn allow us to ensure that our budget is spent on supporting our children to give them the greatest opportunities that we can. To find out more about the Ebor Academy Trust look at their website at [www.eboracademytrust.co.uk](http://www.eboracademytrust.co.uk).

Academy status will change some things behind the scenes, but otherwise you and your children will see very little difference when we make this change. We will continue to work closely with other local primary and secondary schools. The name of the school will not change and the uniform will not change. We hope that you will continue to give the Governors your support in driving our school forward.

An important aspect of the academy process is consulting with parents, staff and the community to inform you of the plans and to receive your comments and questions; everyone can have a voice and a chance to contribute to the consultation process. Overleaf we have set out some answers to frequently asked questions and we will be holding a meeting for parents on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 4.30pm.

The consultation period will run between Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The Governing Body will then consider responses before making a final decision on the proposal to become an academy.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Victoria Shaw  
Deputy Headteacher

**What is an academy?**

Academy schools are state-funded schools in England which are directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control. Academies don't have to follow the national curriculum and can set their own term times. They still have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools.

**Who runs an academy?**

An academy is run by an academy trust. If this proposal goes ahead, Marfleet Primary School will join Ebor Academy Trust, which is a multi-academy trust currently running six schools. Ebor is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation.

**Why Ebor Academy Trust?**

Ebor's aims and values closely mirror our own and we feel joining them would be a good "fit".

**What is an Academy Order?**

An Academy Order is the next step in the process and, if the application is successful, releases a grant of £25,000 to schools considering becoming an academy. This money funds the legal work to explore the process and pays for incidental expenses. If the schools decide not to convert, the money is paid back, less any incurred costs.

**Will any jobs be lost if you do decide to proceed?**

No. Staff will be transferred across under TUPE arrangements.

**Will the schools continue to work with the local council and other schools?**

We have very good relationships with Hull City Council and other schools in the city – and beyond – and we want to continue and develop these partnerships for the benefit of our children and their families.

**Will we actually see any differences on a day-to-day basis?**

Signage and stationery will change slightly, saying that Marfleet Primary School is part of the Ebor Academy Trust, but other than that it will be difficult to see any difference on a day-to-day basis.

**Will the uniform change?**

There are no plans to change our uniform.

**Will there be any changes to admissions?**

No. There would be no changes to current arrangements.

**How do I find out more about academies?**

A useful starting point is [www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies](http://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies)

**How can I get involved in the consultation process?**

You can attend a meeting (see overleaf for details), or email us at [admin@marfleet.hull.sch.uk](mailto:admin@marfleet.hull.sch.uk) or you can write to us, care of the school office.