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Headteacher : Mrs C Wain

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Dear Stakeholder

You will be aware of the pressures from DfE for schools to become academies and that many Schools within Middlesbrough have already become Academies. There are different reasons for schools transferring whether to avoid DfE imposing sponsors on them, schools deciding to go independent in their own best interests or moving into Trusts for benefits of scale and independence.

The Governing Body and the Headteacher at Pallister Park Primary have had many discussions on whether this is the right option for the school, we have gathered lots of research and spoken to our colleagues across the town. We have put in an application following the Governing Body passing a resolution to apply. Our application is based on forming a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

Multi Academy Trusts (MAT) - MATs have the capacity to run more than one academy. A MAT is a charitable company with a single set of articles of association. It is a single legal entity accountable for a number of academies; its board of trustees is accountable for all the academies in the Trust. The Trust enters into a master funding agreement (MFA) with the Secretary of State, and into supplemental funding agreements (SFA) for each academy it operates.

We have chosen to transfer (subject to DfE approval) now as we feel we are currently in a strong position in relation to Ofsted, DfE and results, therefore the future is in our own hands. The DfE believe a Teaching School should be at the heart of every MAT and believe all schools, including those already performing well, will benefit from being in a Multi Academy Trust. We want schools to operate in strong, resilient structures which raise standards. Multi Academy Trusts bring together leadership, autonomy, funding and accountability in a single structure, and in our view are the best long-term formal arrangement for schools to collaborate and support each other. At the heart of our school are our children. Sharing best practice and collaboration within the town and on occasions within the Tees Valley is how we currently operate and is our passion; working alongside other good and outstanding schools is something which is integral to the success of our partnerships and not something we would want fragmenting should DfE 'force' some of our local school down the academy route with independent sponsors, or other MATs. We are committed to ensuring that all our schools within Middlesbrough and neighbouring authorities continue to have a great future in education, whilst supporting and working with others. We believe that we should support all schools and there are always opportunities to learn, share, develop and grow. We are confident that in this way, our own skills and links with MSTA will continue to develop through collaborative working.

We believe that the pupils and staff will benefit from greater opportunities that formal partnerships such as the MSTA and shared working through the MAT, will bring.

Our vision for the future is to work with other schools who share our values and ethos. We believe that the following are key areas to secure success;



*An environment to support learning*

This includes creating teaching spaces that have a continuous standard throughout the school, similar resources and quality of equipment. Children learn best when they value the environment they are in.

*A team around the child*

We believe that the best teachers should be available to teach our pupils with additional support staff to be able to provide emotional support where necessary in order for the teacher's main focus to be enabling the child to make progress. If resources allowed we would continue our additional staffing policy to provide 3 teachers between 2 classes to enable small group teaching to be focused and effective.

*Good recruitment and retention policy*

Working in a school with enthusiastic talented staff is vital for providing excellent education. Staff who feel valued, supported to grow and encouraged to move through their career will continue to work to the ethos and beliefs of the Leadership team they have been supported by.

*Schools supporting all schools*

Our Trust will strive to support any school who identify that they have areas to improve or a desire to learn. SLEs will continue to be identified and deployed in other schools to share best practice and provide support where necessary.

As a Multi Academy Trust, we would remain Pallister Park Primary School, within the Trust, with our local governing body. At Pallister Park we are proud of our close links and good working relationships with our local schools, this will also be retained.

Conversion offers us the opportunity to continue our programme of School improvement, build upon and grow our success.

Should you wish to make any comments on the potential conversion or ask any questions could you please submit these to Mrs C Wain or Mrs H Adams, in writing, via email or telephone.

Please be assured that Pallister Park Primary School will continue to put our Children first and provide the best possible Education for them.

Yours faithfully

Christine Wain  
Executive Headteacher