

HIGH LITTLETON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACADEMY STATUS

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



The Department for Education (DfE) has offered good and outstanding schools in England and Wales the opportunity to join the academies programme. It says that becoming an academy would “give schools the freedoms and flexibilities to continue to drive up standards”.

The Governing Body of High Littleton C of E Primary School has been planning for the further improvement of the school, as well as how best to secure its long-term future. As part of that process, we have considered many different options and have been in discussion with Norton Hill and Somervale Secondary Schools (Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership) about working in closer collaboration with them.

As a result, we believe that the best option for our school is to convert to academy status and join the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly-funded independent schools and enjoy more freedom than other state schools.

- As an academy, we would have more freedom to manage our school as we think best, in the interest of our children and community.
- The government believes that good and outstanding schools do better when they have the freedom to make their own decisions, with less interference from local and national government.
- The extra freedoms cover the curriculum, the school day and term, certain aspects of employment and certain aspects of admissions.
- As an academy we would be better placed to secure the interests of our staff and make sure our children get the best care and education possible.

If we were to convert to academy status, the school would go through some legal and financial changes. A MAT trust would be set up which would oversee the school's legal and financial affairs and also become the employer, rather than the Local Authority (LA).

Academies still have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools.

What is a MAT?

A Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is governed by one trust and a single board of directors. There are representatives from each school on the Trust Board. The MAT would have local governing bodies for each of its academies, which would continue to work in much the same way as now.

What would our partnership with MNSP look like as a MAT?

Representatives from both MNSP and High Littleton Church of England Primary School would be on the MAT Trust Board. The Trust Board would be responsible for policy and the strategic vision of the MAT. The Trust Board would delegate the strategic responsibilities for education, finance and premises to the local governing bodies of both MNSP and High Littleton Primary School. Both MNSP and High Littleton would retain their respective Headteachers.

How will this affect my child?

Your child will see very little difference. They will have the same staff, the same school day, the same uniform, the same lessons, whilst having even more opportunities than they do now.

In an era where many small schools are having to federate and share a Headteacher, this process will ensure that High Littleton will retain its own Headteacher, who will be fully focused on delivering the highest quality education possible for the children at our school.

We will not change:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • our name | • our uniform |
| • our church school status | • our relationship with other schools |
| • our vision | • our links with the Local Authority |
| • our leadership | • our admissions policy |

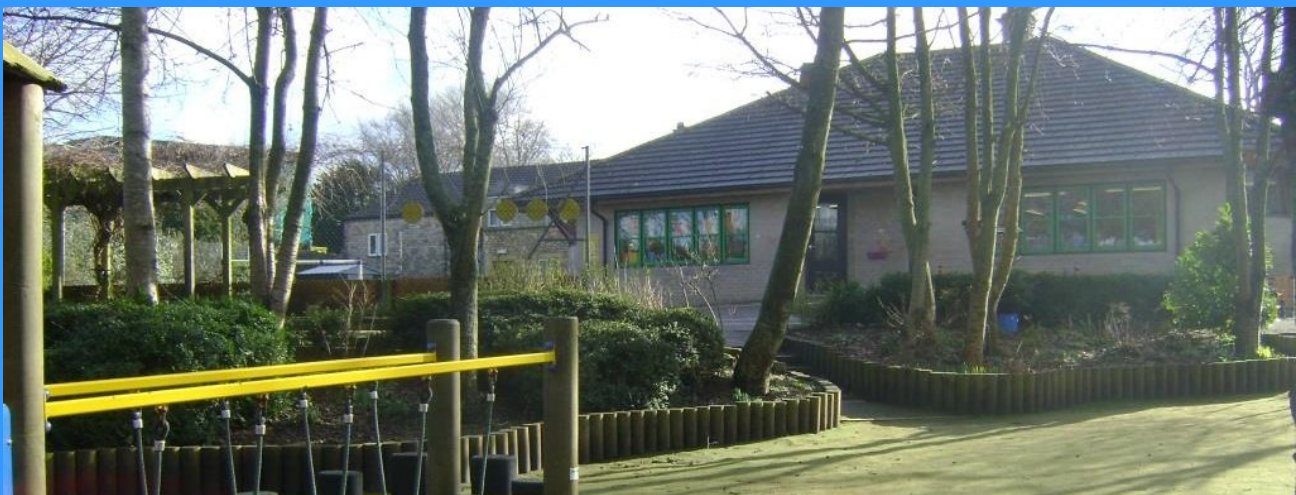
How is this going to help improve the education of my child?

Becoming an Academy as part of a MAT will bring a number of key benefits for our children, including:

- a shared approach to improving education locally.
- improved transition for Year 6 pupils most of whom attend one of the two MNSP schools.
- greater economies of scale to allow capital investment in buildings and facilities at High Littleton.
- increased access to specialist facilities including those used for science, sport, technology and art.
- access to specialist teachers.
- better teaching and learning across all the schools in the partnership with High Littleton benefiting from expertise in Science for example and Norton Hill and Somervale School benefiting from our expertise in the teaching of literacy.
- support with the procurement of service such as school meals, site management, health and safety, finance, etc.

What is the process for High Littleton Church of England to convert to Academy status?

1. Governing Body registers its interest in becoming an academy.
2. Governing Body seeks approval from the Diocese of Bath and Wells.
3. Governing Body submits an application form to the DfE.
4. Governing Body is granted an Academy Order from the DfE.
5. Governing Body enters into a phase on consultation with all stakeholders: parents, staff, other local schools, Local Authority, Parish Council, Diocese of Bath and Wells and local media.
6. Existing employer consults with staff and Union representatives.
7. Transfer of land and buildings to the Multi Academy Trust.
8. High Littleton Church of England Primary School becomes an Academy as part of a MAT.





Consultation Evening

We would like to offer parents and community members the chance to come and find out more about converting to academy status.

Date: Tuesday 18th March

Time: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Location: High Littleton School

For more information please visit our website

www.highlittletonschool.com

and click on our Academy tab.

Here you will find more information and Frequently Asked questions which will be answered by the governing body.

You may also wish to visit the

DfE's website

www.education.gov.uk



How can I respond to the consultation?

1. Tell us what you think. Email your responses to: highlittleton_pri@bathnes.gov.uk or send your questions/thoughts back to the school office on the slip below **by Friday 4th April**
2. Come to our Consultation Evening on Tuesday 18th March at 7:00pm

Name:

Questions/thoughts about the consultation:
