



TEMPLE GRAFTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

A PROPOSAL TO FORM A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST - CONSULTATION **SUMMARY SPRING TERM 2017**



This document represents a summary of a consultation held by Temple Grafton C of E Primary School (TGPS) in the spring term 2017. The proposal upon which the consultation was based is that St Nicholas C of E Primary School (SNPS) converts from a single academy trust to a multi academy trust (MAT), and that Coughton C of E Primary (CPS) and TGPS join the MAT.

The consultation ran from 6th to 31st March.

1. A letter, explanatory note and FAQ's were sent to all key stakeholders setting out the proposal, including all parents / carers, all staff, the Diocese, the local church and local partners. Book bag post was used for all families. Notifications were published in the weekly newsletter informing families that the documents had been sent home. Stakeholders in the wider community were emailed copies of our consultation documents.
2. Drop-in sessions were held on Friday 10th March at 9:15 am and Tuesday 21st March at 7.00pm at the school.
3. People were invited to write or email to the clerk to the governing body and a dedicated email address was set up consultation3066@welearn365.com
4. A consultation response form was provided

The following list provides a summary of the responses received. The school has children from 81 families currently in attendance. 8 families attended the drop-in sessions and in total 18 written responses were received by the school. Four of the written responses were received from members of staff.

- a. Of the responses received 15 were in favour of the MAT proposal and there were three responses that stated "not sure / undecided". There were no negative responses.
- b. An email of support has been received from the Temple Grafton Parish Council.
- c. A comment was made that the MAT should not only consider CofE schools as potential joiners, but should widen its scope and welcome secular schools.
- d. A comment was made that it was better to be involved in a MAT at the formative stage than later
- e. A request was made that the high level of consultation be continued
- f. There were concerns raised including:
 - i. Will the school funding be impacted?
 - ii. Will children be required to take lessons at other schools?
 - iii. Will the MAT be able to prevent other schools joining the proposed MAT (the Arden Forest MAT)?
 - iv. Will the development of TGPS be restricted by joining the MAT as TGPS is performing better than the other schools?
 - v. Will the responsibility for teaching and learning always lie with the TGPS head teacher?

- vi. Will TGPS always benefit fairly from any fund-raising activities?
- vii. The school's ethos and values must be preserved
- viii. How will the parents /carers view from TGPS be represented and protected, when TGPS parents / carers will be in a minority in the MAT
- ix. The consultation material does not mention the Diocesan MAT – why was this not considered?

A substantial response was received from one individual who raised a series of points and concerns, many of which are listed above. The individual felt the consultation was biased and less factual than was possible, and did not address the inherent risks associated with MATs. Concern was expressed that decision making at a local level would be lost, as power and influence moved to the MAT.

The TGPS governing body considered these responses at a meeting held on 27th April 2017, and have responded as follows:

- i. The proposed MAT has confirmed that academy funding will not be impacted and that the funding allocated to TGPS will not be reduced as a result of entering the MAT.
- ii. The proposed MAT has confirmed that children will not be required to take core lessons at other schools. TGPS pupils will continue to receive their education at Temple Grafton; opportunities to enhance learning through collaboration will planned where appropriate.
- iii. The proposed MAT has the potential to grow and expand but will only do so in a controlled fashion. Potential new joiners will be carefully selected and subject to thorough due diligence.
- iv. We do not envisage that the development of TGPS will be restricted by joining the MAT.
- v. The proposed MAT has confirmed that responsibility for teaching and learning at TGPS will lie with the head teacher of TGPS, as long as the academy remains good or outstanding.
- vi. The proposed MAT has confirmed that each academy will benefit from its own fund raising.
- vii. The proposed MAT has confirmed that every school will maintain its own identity, values and ethos.
- viii. The proposed MAT has confirmed that the views and interests of all parents / carers and academies within the MAT will be considered by the MAT. The larger academies will not have favourable representation as this is not a deciding factor in the control of the trust.
- ix. The Diocesan MAT was considered, but it was felt the proposed MAT offered the best option for TGPS.

Taking all the above in to consideration, the governing body of Temple Grafton Church of England Primary School have decided to continue with the proposal and undertake due diligence.