



DARELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Academy Conversion – Bite Size Brief

What is an academy school?

An academy school is either a state primary or state secondary school which has opted out of local authority control. Instead it receives funding directly from central government – the Department for Education.

Why do schools become academies?

Being an academy gives schools greater freedoms to: manage their own budgets i.e. what they decide to spend money on; and to organise their school's curriculum. Core subjects such as English, Maths and Science must still be taught.

What is a MAT?

A MAT is a multi-academy trust that has overarching responsibility for a group of academy schools.

Is Darell the only primary school in Richmond considering academy conversion?

Many primary schools in the Borough have been considering converting to academy status. This is because the current government, and our local council, is in favour of academies and have encouraged schools to research the options. Darell may be ahead of other primaries in taking this forward because the governing body decided that it is better for the school to be in control of its own destiny. **In other words, being in a position to choose when and which MAT we join.**

Why is the governing body proposing to join the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust?

Darell's governing body has taken the view that this MAT shares our ethos of inclusivity and family-based values and that the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust will be a good match for our school. The MAT includes two secondary schools: Grey Court (an 'outstanding' school) and Hollyfield (a 'good' school) which have both delivered much-improved outcomes for their children whilst prudently managing their budgets.

All schools, both primary and secondary are currently operating in a difficult environment. Funding is being reduced in real terms so schools are having to continue to deliver high educational standards for their children with less money.

The Governing Body believe that **Darell will be strengthened by being able to share:**

- best practice;
- teachers with subject-specific knowledge;
- contracts for suppliers and services;
- wider opportunities for our children;
- and career development for our teachers.

What happens now?

There will be a seven-week consultation period from 21 November 2016 until 09 January 2017 to seek your views and the views of other stakeholders in the local community. If, during the application process there are no obstacles to our school joining the MAT, Darell could convert to academy status by September 2017. **For a more detailed Q&A please visit school website: www.darell.richmond.sch.uk or ask for a paper copy at the office.**