



DARELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Supplementary Q&A for Parent/Community Consultation on Academy Conversion

ACADEMY CONVERSION PROCESS

No questions raised

ACADEMY TRUST STRUCTURE

38. Why have there been so many resignations in the Trust in 2016?

The resignations in September from Every Child, Every Day were part of the process of converting from a single academy trust to a multi-academy trust. The individuals were the Grey Court Governors ceasing to be trustees, although the majority have remained as part of the Local Governing Body for Grey Court. This will also include any governors who left earlier in the year as part of normal evolution of a governing body.

Both Grey Court and Hollyfield schools have a local governing body. The Every Child Every Day trustees include governors from Grey Court and Hollyfield. This structure is recommended best practice for multi-academy trusts, and the resignations and transfers were necessary to bring this into effect.

ACADEMY GOVERNANCE

No questions raised

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

No questions raised

SCHOOL POLICIES

No questions raised

WORKING FOR AN ACADEMY

No questions raised

SCHOOL FINANCES

39. What is the financial balance? Where do these figures come from?

The current financial balance is recorded in the agreed budget submitted to the Local Authority. In the final budget submitted in June for 2016/17, the outturn for 2015/16 was £247k, of which circa. £158k was already committed to spend on playground improvements, NI increases and other school facility upgrades. At that time, the forecast for the next three years was £52k, -£33k and -£113k, which is a deficit from 2017/18 onwards.

The school reports to the Local Authority against this budget throughout the year and assumptions often change. For instance, there is a shortfall in the Dedicated Schools Grant and each state funded school has been consulted in the last few weeks on a proposal to accept a reduction in their budget of between £30-50 per pupil. This impact is under evaluation and a plan will be produced to bring the school back to a balanced budget.

40. How much funding do we get per pupil?

The funding is set out in the Local Authority Fair Funding model and reviewed every year (https://www.richmond.gov.uk/school_funding). The average funding per pupil at the beginning of this financial year was £2,798. This does not include various additional funding elements, including pupil premium and SEN funding.

41. How many vacancies are there in the school?

As of 24 November, the school has 51 vacancies across all classes, with the majority in the early years. The school is currently two form entry except for Y5 and Y6, which are still only single forms. As a full school, we would expect to have 60 pupils in each year group, which will open up 60 new places by 2018/19,

42. If we had closer to 30 children in every class, would we be fine without becoming an academy?

This is a complex issue and difficult to answer conclusively. Having a full school would reduce the financial pressure and provide additional capacity to make some of the improvements required to give better outcomes for children.

However, the school has not been in this position for the past five years. The school has worked hard to increase pupil numbers but this trend is based upon a number of contributory and interdependent factors, one of which is the under-performance of the school relative to other local schools. The benefit of joining the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust is that we could access some additional resources while we continue to build our own capability.