



Gayton Primary School

Academy Consultation Presentation to Parents

Tuesday 12th October 2021

What is an academy?

- Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an academy trust.
- Academies have more autonomy over how they do things than community schools. Eg, curriculum freedoms.
- Academies are inspected by Ofsted.
- They have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools and pupils sit the same exams/tests.

Why change?

- Governing board looked at converting to an academy trust in 2017 but decision made that it wasn't the right decision for Gayton at that time.
- Primary reason to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes for the children at Gayton Primary School.
- Forward thinking- Changing landscape- government direction & ambition.

Why change?

- Local authority capacity to support and challenge individual schools
- Soft federation- Changes within the soft federation prompting governors to look at other options.
- To be in charge of our own future direction and decide the best way forward for the school in order to further improve pupil outcomes.

Process for change...

- Governing board have researched variety of MATs- shortlisted and looked into the different elements that are offered by other academy trusts.
- Created a list of non-negotiables/deal breakers which we deem to be important for Gayton and its community.

Non-Negotiables/Deal breakers

A Multi-Academy Trust that offers the following:

- Focuses solely on primary education
- Shares our ethos, values and vision
- Is committed to collaborative working opportunities.
- Allows us to maintain autonomy with each individual school being able to decide its own approach and make its own decisions.
- Maintains a local governing board
- Does not pool funds across its academies. We want to keep our own money and be in control of how this is spent.

Non-Negotiables/Deal breakers

A Multi-Academy Trust that offers the following:

- Support to improve our income generation and ensure financial health and stability.
- Quality of central service provision.
- Is established and has a good existing reputation for improving outcomes for pupils.
- A MAT executive team that we know we can work with.

Why Cheshire Academies Trust?



Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds

- School already has developed a working relationship with Cheshire Academies Trust which has been developed over a three year period.
- Shared ethos, vision and culture with the ability to determine our own.
- School improvement approaches- ability to prioritise what is important to our pupils.
- Curriculum is ours.
- Primary only trust
- Collaboration- opportunities for pupils and staff.
- Unity and autonomy
- Ability to maintain identity. CAT understands the community is at the heart of the school's identity.
- Access to subject specialists to support with the curriculum.

Why Cheshire Academies Trust?



Finance:

- Budget remains ours.
- Support to fulfil financial and reporting requirements.
- Improved central services provisions.

Cheshire Academies Trust.



Cheshire Academies Trust.

Purpose:



Cheshire Academies Trust

Inspiring hearts and minds

Cheshire Academies Trust

**Achieving their vision
through:**

Care, Collaboration and Creativity

Value uniqueness

Provide a great education

Share the same values

Build unity and autonomy

Empower communication

Invest in people

Create the conditions for success

What will not change?

- The ethos and values of our school;
- The name of the school;
- The terms and conditions of employment for staff will remain unchanged;
- The curriculum;
- The uniform;
- Governors will continue to serve on the Local Governing Board providing challenge and support to the Headteacher;
- SEND Top up Funding will continue to be provided by the local authority;
- We will continue to collaborate with other Wirral Primary Schools.

What will change?

Essentially Gayton will look and operate, to parents and pupils, as it always has, there will appear to be very little change however the opportunities for the staff and pupils will be increased and improved.

- The legal status of the school will change as it will be owned by the trust.
- Staff will be employed by Cheshire Academies Trust.
- The local governing board will be established under a scheme of delegation.
- The responsibility for the school building will transfer to the trust.
- Financial arrangements- Most funding will come to the school direct from Central Government (with top up funding (SEND) still coming from Wirral LA).

What are the benefits?

- We retain our autonomy.
- Our local governing board is retained and continues to strategically support the Headteacher.
- It will support us in continuing to improve outcomes for our pupils.
- School improvement support and challenge on a half termly basis for the Headteacher/Governing board and Senior Leadership team.
- Increased collaboration & sharing of best practice across all schools in the Trust.
- Economic benefits through economies of scale.
- Access to collaboration with CAT teams and hubs to support school staff e.g. NQT, F2, inclusion hub, Safeguarding and child protection, subject leadership hubs, research hub, behaviour hub and Senior Leadership hub.

What happens next?

- Parents are free to email in any questions/queries they may have during the consultation period. Please send these to:
consultation@gayton.wirral.sch.uk
- Parent consultation will end on **Wednesday 16th November 2021**.
- During the consultation period- school will continue to undertake due diligence whereby we find out more information about Cheshire Academies Trust and they have the opportunity to find out more about us.
- Governors will meet at the end of the consultation period to make a decision as to whether we continue to explore joining Cheshire Academies Trust.
- Governors will continue to keep parents updated regarding the decisions made and the next steps.

Opportunity to ask questions:

