



Academy status for Eastlands Primary School

Briefing for Parents/Carers
October 2014



Aims



- Explain what becoming an Academy means to Eastlands
- Provide an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- Outline next steps after this consultation



Eastlands: current status



- We are currently a Local Authority school funded by Warwickshire County Council
- Part of our budget is retained for LA services
- We already opt out of many LA services
- LA still makes decisions for all its schools, not just ours



Local Authority: current status



- Adopting a neutral stance on school status
- Facing cuts to staffing levels and resources
- Recognises that the quality of services provided to schools varies significantly and does not always represent good value for money
- Accepts that their role is to offer high quality services to all schools on a buy back basis



Eastlands: proposed status



- An Academy funded directly by the Department for Education (DfE) instead of the Local Authority
- All staff will be employed by the Academy Trust and transfer under exactly the same terms and conditions of employment
- The school will be governed by a Governing Body accountable to parents and the DfE (not the LA)



Why we are pursuing conversion?



- Greater autonomy to make decisions that are in the best interests of Eastlands and its pupils
- Greater control for the GB over school budget to spend to the benefit of Eastlands' children
- Freedom of choice to spend the money that the Local Authority currently spends on our behalf
- To become Ofsted 'Outstanding' quicker



Academy facts and figures



- 4,323 schools are open as academies (DfE 10/2014)
- 2,215 primary schools are open as academies (DfE 10/2014)
- 3,001 open 'converter' academies as of 1/8/14 (DfE 10/2014)
- c3million pupils being educated in academies



Academy facts and figures



- 'Converter' Academies in Rugby (last Ofsted inspection)
 - Lawrence Sheriff (Outstanding)
 - Rugby High (Outstanding)
 - Ashlawn (Outstanding)
 - Bilton (Good)
 - Henry Hinde (Good)
 - Cawston Grange (Good)
- Four primary applications submitted including Eastlands



History of the decision...



- Significant discussion within the governing body
- Visit and discussions with a local school who converted to an Academy two years ago
- Discussions with DfE, lawyers, colleagues, other schools
- Unanimous decision taken by the full Governing Body in September 2014



Possible questions



- Who took this decision?
- Is the school not doing well?
- Who will the Sponsor be?
- Is this a done deal?
- Who will the Governors be?
- Will the admissions policy change?
- Will the curriculum change?
- Will the school become two form entry?
- Will the school day change?
- Will the term dates change?



Possible questions



- Will the name change?
- Will the uniform change?
- Will school trips cost more?
- Will be still be part of LA admissions?
- What about relationship with other schools?
- What about relationship with local community?
- What about children with Special Educational Needs?
- How do I ask a question privately?



Next steps



- Stakeholder consultation ends 7th November
- Governing Body to consider all responses
- Agree structure and make-up of governing body
- DfE paperwork including Funding Agreement
- Governing Body to sign Funding Agreement





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