



Be the Best You Can Be...
Celebrate Success...
Respect Others...

Larkfields Junior School

Coronation Road, Nuthall, Nottingham NG16 1EP

Telephone: 0115 919 4343

Head Teacher: Mrs J Scott

Website: <http://larkfields.schooljotter2.com/>

Email: office@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk

headteacher@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk

1st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find below a list of frequently asked questions around conversion to an Academy. If you would like any further information myself and Gavin Davies, Chair of Governors will be holding a drop in session on **Thursday 7th December from 3:30pm-4:30pm.**

- ***Are the Infant and Junior schools merging to become one school?***
- No, the schools will stay as two separate schools as we currently are.
- ***Does going academy mean the schools become private and will get more money?***
- No, the school will be part of an academy chain but we will continue to run in the way that we do now. The budget may increase very slightly as we don't have to pay a top slice to Nottinghamshire County Council. The budget will be run in the same way as it is now and teacher's terms and conditions will be the same. I also don't get to set my own pay or pay increases, these will be managed in the same way as they are now, linked to appraisal and the pay policy, monitored and approved by governors. This also means that trips and fundraising we do will be dealt with in the same way, we will still have control over which trips we run and how much we charge. The academy status does not affect the Friends of Larkfields and they will continue to hold fundraising events throughout the year which will continue to provide much needed funds for the school extras as they have done previously.
- ***Will the uniform or school branding change?***
- No, not as a result of becoming an academy. We have chosen EMET as we get to retain our autonomy and school identity and this is important to both schools.
- ***Will there be an absolute commitment to retain the current balance of NQTs and experienced teachers in both schools. Many Academies cut costs by over time recruiting more NQTs to the detriment of balance.***
- The balance of staff and who we recruit will remain the school's choice.

At Larkfields, we take care of...



- ***How do you see that the MAT will benefit the children of Larkfields Junior/Infant School?***

Currently as a Family of Schools we work closely on a range of areas. This includes curriculum areas such as maths, reading and writing, alongside sport and music. Becoming an academy will allow us to continue the excellent best practice we have started to develop. However, for this to continue to build and develop it needs to have a more strategic overview, with staff allocated to lead specific areas in a more formal arrangement. A School Improvement Lead will be appointed for the Primary Years schools.

Sharing best practice and working with other schools allows us to develop our practice and ensure that we have access to cutting edge teaching methods and resources. It also makes sure that we are forward thinking and able to ensure that the children at Larkfields have access to the best teaching and learning.

Furthermore, we will also be able to make cost savings as we can buy in bulk and negotiate contracts which will ensure we get best value for money. It will also allow us to access other funding streams and give us more choice about where we buy services from.

We are also keen to develop stronger links with The Kimberley School and the community as a whole. It is important that the children have support from the whole community and access to other resources within the community.

At some point, all schools will have to become an academy and we want to have a choice over which academy we join. EMET has been selected due to the links to The Kimberley School and the amount of autonomy granted.

We don't want to be forced to join an academy which we feel does not fit with our vision and values.

- ***What are the identified risks of moving to an Academy? How are these being tackled?***

- The processes set up by the DFE in regards to converting to academy are being followed.
- Governors have spent several years debating the pros and cons of becoming an academy. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the website.
- The risks involved are low and have been assessed by NCC, governors and the DFE as part of the process.
- The fact that we are also going to the same academy as the other schools with in the Family gives us strength in numbers.

- ***Will current class sizes be maintained or improved? Is there a commitment to this and to maximum class sizes moving forward?***

- Class sizes will continue to stay within the PAN for each school, for the Juniors that is 60 per year group, unless circumstances demand a change. This would be the same process if we remained a maintained school.



Be the Best You Can Be...
Celebrate Success...
Respect Others...

Larkfields Junior School

Coronation Road, Nuthall, Nottingham NG16 1EP

Telephone: 0115 919 4343

Head Teacher: Mrs J Scott

Website: <http://larkfields.schooljotter2.com/>

Email: office@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk

headteacher@larkfields-jun.notts.sch.uk

- ***Will all subjects currently taught and offered by schools be maintained? Are there any plans to reduce subject breadth and provision? Will the Academy commit to maintain subject breadth or increase it?***
- Yes, the school will continue to have full autonomy over our curriculum.
- ***How will the Larkfields Schools maintain their core values?***

The proposed academy choice has been made because they are keen for schools to keep their autonomy and values, their strap line is:

“A partnership of willing, proud and autonomous schools”

As a Family of Schools we recognise that although we are a strong community; and this is one of the key drivers for all going to the same academy, we are also aware that we are all very different and that this is another of the strength of the community. We have investigated many options around academy and keeping our core values was at the heart of this. The academy we are looking to join has been very specific about us keeping our own values and autonomy.

Yours sincerely

Jess Scott
Head Teacher

At Larkfields, we take care of...

