



The Dove Family Academy Trust

Dundry School

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Telephone 0117 9647181

3rd March

Dear Parents,

As you will no doubt be aware, the DFE and Dove Family Academy Trustees have been working hard to find a positive solution to some of the issues faced at the Academy of Trinity and Dundry over the last few months. Dundry School remains settled with children making very positive progress. Dundry is now a secure school with a bright future and one that I hope will continue to serve the community well. Plans are now in place to appoint a Headteacher across both Academy of Trinity and Dundry School, along with a senior teacher with responsibility for the Dundry site. In addition to this, there will be a SENCO based at Dundry from September and a full time designated Safeguarding Lead who will liaise with the new Headteacher.

We are now looking further ahead and planning for sustained improvement at the school. To that end we have been in discussion with Norton Hill, Somervale, Clutton and High Littleton Schools about working in closer partnership. In early February the Dove Family Academy Trustees unanimously voted to join formally with Norton Hill, Somervale, Clutton and High Littleton schools as part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. This action will bring a number of key benefits for Academy of Trinity and Dundry School and more importantly our children. I have detailed some of these below:

- 1) Improved leadership.
- 2) Improved safeguarding of children.
- 3) Increased access to specialist facilities including those used for science, sport, technology and art.
- 4) Better teaching and learning across all the schools in the partnership. For example, Dundry School will benefit from expertise in Science, Art, PE and other specialist subjects, whilst we will use our expertise in the teaching of reading and phonics for example, to support other schools in the partnership.
- 5) Greater and more structured support across primary schools in the partnership so that true collaboration really happens.
- 6) Greater economies of scale to allow capital investment in buildings and facilities at Dundry – Mr Williams the Executive Headteacher has already secured a bid of £80,000 to spend at Dundry on buildings.
- 7) Support with procurement of service such as school meals, site management, health and safety, finance, etc.
- 8) Opportunities for more regular staff development and therefore improved skills of teachers and non-teaching colleagues

Nationally, many primary schools are working in this way with secondary schools and in terms of the day-to-day feel of our school, there will be very little difference to that which is experienced currently.

Myself and other Trustees hope that you will see the many benefits to this course of action and will wish to support it. We firmly believe that working closely with secondary schools and some excellent primary schools, will allow us to continue offering the best possible experiences for your children.

We wish to reassure parents and carers that this is a decision that we have taken in the best interests of their children, but also the staff at the school. However, we are interested in your views and therefore have arranged a parent consultation meeting for Thursday 31st March at 6:00pm in the school hall. Additionally, if you would like any questions answered, please detail them on the slip attached and we will do our very best to answer them by the end of March.

With best wishes

Terry Hillier