



14th May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

The Wroughtton Primary Federation's Governing Body wants to ensure that our schools are in the strongest possible position so teachers and school leaders can provide the highest quality of education for all children.

The priority is to ensure that we are best placed to do this by being outward facing in our school improvement work whilst protecting the schools' ethos and position at the heart of the Wroughtton community.

As you know, our two schools work in close partnership with each other to ensure the best possible provision for children at both schools. We also work closely with a number of other Swindon schools to ensure that we continue to develop our provision and keep ahead of the changing educational landscape.

I am writing today on behalf of the Governing Body, to explain that we are entering a period of consultation to review the future opportunities for our schools. The Governing Body has explored a number of different options over the last 10 months and has decided to consult staff, parents, the local authority and the wider community on a proposal to join Grove Learning Trust, a Multi Academy Trust currently consisting of 2 schools (Eastrop Infants and Southfield Juniors) in Highworth, Swindon.

In non-Covid times, we would gather everyone together to explain the decision and to answer questions. Given that this is not possible at this time, we have produced a video presentation that explains the full decision making journey, the options that have been considered and further details about Grove Learning Trust and why the Governing Body feel this is a good match and important next step for our schools.

The Governing Body is in agreement that we need to be part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) that has a culture of collaboration which will result in the best outcomes and opportunities for children and will build on the current strengths within our individual schools. Consideration has also been given to the size and ethos of the MAT so that schools can benefit from collaboration and financial economies of scale, whilst maintaining the local identity of being Wroughtton schools.

Governors have therefore been looking for a MAT that has the capacity to grow, retain and develop both teachers and leaders to meet the needs of its schools both now and in the future, whilst also giving the flexibility to run our schools in the way we believe is right. Above all, Governors want the schools to be part of a MAT which focuses on school improvement, puts the needs of children and families at its heart and where we could have a direct impact on its future development as equal partners.

Having explored a range of options, the Governing Body is opening consultation today (Friday 14th May 2021) until 4pm on Friday 18th June 2021. The consultation and details of the proposal are explained in full in the video presentation that can be found by clicking the link below. We will update this page on our website with frequently asked questions during the consultation as well as an indication of proposed timescales.

<https://www.wroughttonfederation.co.uk/pages/key-documents/academy-consultation-2021>

Grove Learning Trust is a relatively recently-established Multi Academy Trust; the current membership is two schools. The Trust is committed to, and has a proven track record of, rigorous school improvement where Headteacher's and other leaders work together to share best practice and learn from one another as well as from other external networks and partnerships. Governors believe that the organisation of and proposed



structures within Grove Learning Trust will ensure that school leaders can focus on leading teaching and learning within their schools.

Importantly for Governors, Grove Learning Trust values the individuality and ethos of each school. Our joining the MAT would give us the degree of autonomy we have requested, and would not require us to make any changes to the schools' identity as local Wroughton schools nor require us to change any staff.

Joining Grove Learning Trust is the next natural progression in building on already-established partnerships which benefit both our schools and allow their further development to support children and their families.

As well as consultation, there will be a period of 'due diligence' before Grove Learning Trust agrees to our joining and before Governors make the final decision to join. This will give us the opportunity to continue to obtain additional information and assurances beyond those which we already have. In addition, approval will be required from the Regional School Commissioner.

In the meantime, the Governors would welcome any views, comments or questions you may have on the proposals. Please email these to Sarah Rutherford, Clerk to the Governing Body, by emailing clerk@wroughtonfederation.co.uk A comments box will also be available in both school's entrance areas if you are unable to email responses.

Your sincerely



Andrew Wilson
Executive Headteacher