

Woodford Green Primary School
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WGPS
Work Grow Play Succeed

Headteacher: P J Prince
Deputy Head: Charlotte Linden

Tuesday 2nd October

Dear members of staff, parents, carers and members of the wider school community,

I am writing to you, as Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body to tell you that at their meeting last night Governors voted that Woodford Green Primary School join the Arbor Academy Trust and convert to academy status.

The Governing Body has a duty to act in the best interests of the school, its pupils, staff and wider community and has the authority and responsibility to develop and implement school strategies that have pupil achievement and progress at their heart.

This decision comes after two years of careful investigation including a short-lived school-to-school partnership and then the commission of school improvement support from Davies Lane, a Teaching School and member school of the Arbor Academy Trust. Both were brokered by the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

The Governing Body has assessed the impact on Woodford Green Primary School of the Arbor Academy Trust's support between July 2017 and July 2018, noting that there had been a significant rise in Key Stage 2 outcomes for Year 6 in 2018, much improved retention of teaching and support staff and other benefits of collaboration seen across the school.

The Governing Body also considered carefully the outcome of the consultation, having received a report from its independent advisor. Governors noted the high levels of participation and engagement from staff, parents and carers. This included the survey results for each stakeholder group, and consideration of the survey comments. Governors reviewed additional due diligence carried out in response to concerns raised by parents throughout the consultation period. Governors finally noted that the outcome of the consultation presented no significant objection to the proposal.

The Governing Body discussed a number of issues regarding the consultation at length and came to the consensus that;

- the consultation was compliant with the Academies Act 2010,
- the consultation was run in accordance with the Governing Body's responsibilities as set out in the Department for Education Governance Handbook 2017,
- the consultation had been comprehensive, meaningful and insightful,

- the Governors had sufficient information from the consultation to make a decision, and
- it was not therefore necessary to extend the consultation as requested by some stakeholders as well as the Local Authority.

The Governing Body, as part of its *Public Sector Equality Duty*, evaluated whether the proposal would fail to advance equality of opportunity or to remove or minimise disadvantage for any pupils or staff. The Governing Body concluded that the proposal would not do so and that being part of the Arbor Academy Trust would actually enhance support for staff working with SEND pupils and therefore improve the quality of provision for those pupils.

The Governing Body, therefore, voted to proceed with the conversion of the school to academy status and join the Arbor Academy Trust.

The consultation report will be published at the earliest opportunity.

The Governing Body is very excited about the future of Woodford Green Primary School as part of the Arbor Academy Trust. We believe it will enable the school to retain the benefits of the small school environment while benefitting from the resources and expertise of a family of larger schools. Our relationship with Arbor Academy Trust and the positive changes we have seen so far can only strengthen as we move forward together.

Governors have been considering our school's future for more than two years so this is not a decision which we have taken lightly. Please be assured that Governors continue to act in the best interests of the school community and all the children at Woodford Green Primary School.

Yours Faithfully



Candice Dwight
Chair of Governors

