

**Mr T Mamak**  
(Headteacher)  
Tel: 01568 616919



Hereford Road  
Leominster  
Herefordshire  
HR6 8JU

Email: [admin@lps.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lps.hereford.sch.uk)  
[www.leominsterprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.leominsterprimaryschool.co.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Leominster Primary School (LPS) Conversion to Academy Status**

### **Introduction**

During the past few months the school governors have been looking to the future and considering how we can best meet the learning needs of our children going forward. There are a number of factors that we have taken into account but our overriding desire has been to build upon the quality of education provided.

Of necessity we have had to evaluate the rapidly changing economic and political situation at both local authority and national level that impact on the quality of education offered at the school.

Whilst the political pressure to academise has reduced of late we have concluded that this is still the direction of travel and believe that it is better to shape our own destiny whilst we have the opportunity to do so rather than wait and perhaps settle for a solution which is not of our own making later on. In addition our funding which is already tight is likely to get even tighter over the next few years and we have had to take this into consideration.

LPS governors have examined the situation in depth looking at different models and solutions and have arrived at a decision that they feel best meets the learning needs of our children and sustains our commitment to the Leominster community.

### **Mercian Educational Trust (MET)**

MET is an academy trust based in Malvern but serving Herefordshire and Worcestershire and currently consists of two schools Somers Park Primary and Great Malvern Primary. They are currently also in the process of building a new school to satisfy the demand for places within the Malvern catchment. Somers Park is rated as outstanding and at their last Ofsted inspection were considered to be one of the very best schools in the country.

As part of our investigations we approached MET to have a look and see whether they would be a suitable partner for LPS. After several visits to and fro and considerable discussion we have concluded that MET presents a real opportunity to help us improve as a school and provide stability and opportunity in these uncertain times for education.

## Benefits for LPS

1. The ethos of the schools within MET is the same as LPS.
2. Sharing best practice within MET which includes the outstanding Somers Park Primary would improve progress and outcomes for our children.
3. LPS would retain its distinct identity with its own head teacher, staff and governing body as before.
4. LPS would have significant representation on the board of directors of the Trust and be able to shape the Trust going forward.
5. LPS will benefit from the financial clout of MET and should be able to reduce the cost of services. An example is insurance where we might be able to save £20,000 each year on current cost.
6. Increased flexibility which academisation brings over curriculum and finance, pupil transfers and admissions etc
7. Staff pay and conditions will be protected.

## Next Steps

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that we are considering converting to an academy and joining MET and to get your thoughts on the matter. The school governors are unanimously in favour of pursuing an application to convert and we have informed the Department for Education (DfE) accordingly. We have also informed the local authority of our plans.

The DfE will appoint a project lead to help us through the process and as part of the consultation process we would like to have your views. We are attaching a response slip on which you can record your views or alternatively please email [consultation@lps.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@lps.hereford.sch.uk). It is our intention to hold meetings where there is a demand for them once we hear back from you. More information about converting to an academy can also be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

LPS governors aim for the school to convert to an academy and join the MET by early summer 2017 subject to considerations arising from the consultation process, approval of government and being able to process all required paperwork and legal work by that time.

Yours sincerely



Tim Stiles  
Chair of Governing Body



Tim Mamak  
Headteacher

