

## Norton Infant School

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Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

### RE: Parental Consultation on Academisation of Norton Infant and Junior Schools

To the parents and carers of all Norton Infant and Junior Children,

We write to inform you that, after much careful consideration and deliberation, the Governing Bodies of both schools have reached a decision on the next steps for our school. After fully exploring the current educational landscape over a number of years, we have taken the decision to consult on a proposal for Norton Infant and Junior Schools to convert to Academy Status and join the Doncaster XP Multi Academy Trust.

This is a positive choice by the schools as we are performing strongly and exceed national standards. A working partnership with XP will bring many benefits to our schools and we are excited about the positive impact it will have on our children's lives. Our priority will always be to secure the long-term direction, ethos and values that bind us together whilst protecting the individuality of each school in which our children thrive.

We would like to invite you to share your thoughts and opinions on this proposal by returning any initial comments or feedback to either school on the attached form. All submissions should be returned to school by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 12:00pm and additional copies of the form can be collected from the school office at either school at any time.

During this initial consultation period, parents and carers will have the opportunity to explore what this means for our children, families and schools and ask any questions relating to this proposal.

Therefore, you are invited to meet with members of staff and governors from both schools in addition to representatives from XP School on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**. There will be 3 sessions throughout the day to allow parents to select the most suitable time. These sessions are repeated and are not exclusive to one school or the other - you should attend the one that is most convenient to yourselves:

**08:30 – 09:30 – Hosted at Norton Junior School**

**14:30 – 15:30 – Hosted at Norton Infant School**

**18:00 – 19:00 – Hosted at Norton Junior School**

We look forward to receiving your feedback and hope to see you at one of the consultation sessions listed above.

Yours sincerely,

MR. A. HAYES

Headteacher

Norton Junior School

MISS. A. TUNNEY

Headteacher

Norton Infant School



# Parental Consultation on Academisation of Norton Infant and Junior Schools



## What is an Academy?

An academy is an independent state-funded school. This means it's funded directly by the government (the Education Funding Agency, EFA) rather than by a local authority as maintained schools are.

## When were Academies introduced?

They were originally a Labour government initiative launched in 2000. Since the 2010 election the number of academies has risen significantly. Schools rated 'outstanding' or 'performing well' by Ofsted get priority.

On 10 May 2016 Nicky Morgan, the Secretary of State for Education, said: "We still want every school to become an academy by 2022... However, we have decided it is not necessary to take blanket powers to convert good schools in strong local authorities to academies at this time."

## How are Academies different from ordinary primary schools?

As local authorities do not fund academies, academies have more freedom to decide certain things for themselves. For example, they can control their own curriculum and finances, and decide how long terms and school days will be. They can also find an external sponsor, like a business, university, charity or faith body.

## How are Academies monitored?

Just like other schools, academies have Ofsted inspections, and their exam results are published by the Department for Education.

## Why does a school become an Academy?

1. It is forced upon them by the DfE or Ofsted because they are under-performing and not providing a good enough education for their children.
2. The school makes a positive choice because it is performing really well and can see a better future for its pupils with more autonomy or through forging effective partnerships.

## What are the benefits of academies?

Some experts believe that converting to academy status can drive up a school's performance levels. Academies have more flexibility on what to teach and can adjust lessons to the particular needs or interests of a class. Academies are encouraged to collaborate with each other in a chain or partnership. This could help them share the best way of doing things and ultimately drive up standards together.

Figures suggest that the budget available for academy schools can be up to 10% higher than state schools. The reason for this is that academies have access to money the local authority holds back for things like special needs support for schools throughout the school borough.

## Where can I get more information about academies?

Check out the [Department for Education's website](#) or any number of pages out there such as:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-facts-you-need-to-know-about-academies>

***Norton Junior And Infant Schools are making a positive choice to convert and join a MAT themselves. We are not being sponsored or taken over, this is about growing and improving!***



## Parental Consultation on Academisation of Norton Infant and Junior Schools



We are aware from speaking to other schools that there are a number of typical FAQ's around Academisation and perhaps we can answer a few of them now which might save you a little time.

1. Will the school uniform change?
  - a. No, the uniform colours and badge will remain the same so there will be no cost implications to parents
2. Will my child's teacher change or will any of the staff be moving to another school?
  - a. No, there will be no changes to staffing
3. Will the admission arrangements change for our children moving to the Juniors or Comprehensive?
  - a. No, the Local Authority remain in charge of all admissions for all schools including academies and things will be no different for families.
4. Will the term dates and holidays still be in line with local schools?
  - a. Yes at this time, although even if we remained as a Local Authority school, we could not guarantee this would always be the case as so many schools are choosing alternate dates. We assure you that any future changes would be in direct consultation with parents.
5. Will the school be forced to change how it operates?
  - a. No, both our schools are performing well and ***this is a choice not an enforced change.***
6. Will the school's money be taken for another school, resulting in my child missing out?
  - a. No, the schools will have more control over their own budgets than before and will retain their allocation. Any decisions on spending will remain with individual schools.
7. Why XP MAT and not a different solution or even stay independent schools?
  - a. XP are doing something really different and innovative, working with internationally renowned partners who have a proven track record over the last 20 years. They received an Outstanding Ofsted Rating in their last inspection and we are excited to be working with them.
8. Will you still work with the LA and other local schools and Academies?
  - a. Yes of course, we will continue to work effectively in partnership with the LA and other schools outside of XP MAT in the best interests of our pupils and school community.

Please use the space below to share the 2 things that are most important to you when considering the school futures and overleaf (if required) to list any questions or comments you might have in relation to our proposal.

**My 2 most important considerations for the school's future**

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# Parental Consultation on Academisation of Norton Infant and Junior Schools



**My general response to the consultation**

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<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Parent of:</b>	
<b>School:</b>	