



LOUGHBOROUGH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers,

We write with some important news about the future of our school.

As some of you may recall, in 2014 our school became what is known as an academy. This was an important step for us. Although we have always worked closely with other local Loughborough schools, we have remained as a 'Stand Alone' academy since then. We now believe that becoming part of a family of like-minded schools in a multi-academy trust (MAT) is the best way forward for us.

Taking this step is something that we have been thinking about in more detail recently, and we have been exploring with a range of MATs what being part of their family would mean for our school, staff, governors and ultimately the quality of education for your children.

In addition, the Government has also recently published their White Paper on the future of education in this country, and the Diocese of Leicester has also provided guidance on what this means for Church of England schools in the Diocese. This has further shaped our thinking and encouraged us to once again be proactive in taking important decisions for our school.

Following a great deal of research, review and discussion, we think that now is the right time for us to join Rise Multi Academy Trust and become part of their strong and growing family of schools.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly and we wanted to be sure that the MAT would share our ambition for our school, have the capacity to ensure that we continue to thrive and also respect our individuality and all the great things that make Loughborough Primary the school that it is.

Some of the key things that shaped our thinking were:

- The ambition of the Trust to be the very best
- The knowledge and experience within the MAT central team – the people who will work with us to keep challenging and championing all that we do
- The proximity of Rise schools to our own
- The values and vision of the Trust which are inclusive, Christian in origin and focus on what it means for pupils, staff and schools to both 'flourish and succeed'

This is not a decision we want to make in isolation. You are receiving this letter as you are a valued and important part of our community and we would welcome and encourage you to share your views on this news.



Whilst we are incredibly excited about the security and opportunity that this brings to our school, it is very important to us that you feel as informed as possible about our thinking and decision making.

That is why we have designed a website www.lcepslisteningperiod.co.uk that:

- Provides some key information about Rise
- Picks up and answers some likely FAQs
- Provides a link for you to share your views and questions (we would then add these questions and responses to the site)

From the outset, we would like to be very clear that you and your children will not see or feel any significant changes to our school; for example, the school day, uniform or staffing. The decision is about the long term future of the school, the professional development of our staff and our ability to collaborate and work with others formally...for the benefit of our staff and pupils and others.

We would also like to warmly welcome you to a meeting where school leaders, governors and senior leaders from Rise can share some headline information in person and then answer any further questions and/or respond to anything that is unclear.

The meeting will be held at school on Wednesday 25th May at 6.00 pm.

In the meantime, if you wish to do some further reading and fact finding for yourself; the Rise website has a lot of key information and the Confederation of School Trusts (a national body) has a whole set of information for schools not in MATs. Links for both of these can be found on the above website.

We fully appreciate that as an academy already, it is possible that you may feel that this step is less critical than decisions we have already made in the past. We want to stress that this is also an important move, which is why we have spent as long discussing and deliberating it as we have. It would be great to hear your views.



Mr Howard Jones
Chair of Governors



Mrs Janine Stilwell
Headteacher