

**Cromwell Primary School consultation with parents on becoming an academy
10.5.2016**

5.30pm

Parents questions:

- 1. With the Government recent changes, we will not now be forced to become an academy. Is that true?**

The Government has recently stated that it will not be forcing good or outstanding schools to become academies. However, the Government is looking to change the law to force school to become academies if they are below the floor targets or are not judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. They are also looking at schools in Local Authorities judged to be failing. The Government is committed to turning all schools into academies and its position is continually changing. The Government does not want to sustain two different school systems by having LA maintained schools and academies, as it is not cost effective.

- 2. Why would we want to leave the Local Authority?**

The LA is changing due to shrinking budgets, having to make significant staff reductions and the School Improvement Team for education was recently disbanded. The school will be able to continue to purchase services from the LA such as Human Resources and SEN. School budgets will be significantly cut under Government changes to school funding. Cromwell will be effected, becoming a MAT will mean the ability to put budgets together with other schools who will eventually become part of the MAT, so giving the opportunity to bulk buy resources and services.

- 3. What if an academy is no longer judged outstanding in Ofsted?**

If an academy is not good or outstanding, then it will be required to work with other schools to help it improve.

- 4. How many school can join a MAT?**

A MAT can be just 2 schools. Before a school is accepted into the MAT there are checks made to ensure that it is suitable. The MAT chooses which schools it takes.

5. What are the benefits to the pupils of becoming a MAT?

Opportunities for the pupils from the schools to work together. For the school to be able to offer more extra curriculum opportunities with its partner schools. Opportunities to put budgets together to buy and share resources. Also greater staff expertise.

6. Will the school get more money as an academy?

As the budget will come straight from the Government rather than through the LA (who 'top slice' a percentage of the school budget) this will be a small increase in the school budget. The school will be able to get more for its money by working with other schools and bulk buying resources and services, including staff training opportunities.

7. What are the differences between academies and maintained schools?

The funding routes are different as in academies the budget comes straight from the Government rather than going through the LA. Academies do not have to teach the National Curriculum.

8. What is the consultation process for becoming an academy?

Cromwell is having staff and parental consultations and is informing the wider community. Information about becoming an academy is on the web site and there is an email link for comments, questions or queries.

9. If an academy does not have to teach the National Curriculum, then can it remove RE from the syllabus?

An academy has to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, including all of the subjects, this will include RE. The opportunities for change are in the subject details, which can potentially be even more personalised to meet the pupils' needs.