

PERRYFIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

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24th June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

PROPOSED ACADEMY CONVERSION TO A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

As you will be aware, Perryfields Junior School (the "School") is currently a Local Authority Maintained school. Approximately a year ago the Governing Body started to think about the benefits of conversion to Academy status and began to consult with Essex County Council and the Department for Education (DfE) concerning the potential for the School to convert to an Academy.

Due to a political agenda which is encouraging all schools to become academies, we now believe that it is the right time to convert the school's status to that of an academy in order to preserve the identity and ethos of the School. We believe that if this conversion goes ahead, we will be in control of the future of our school.

As an Academy, our funding would change slightly because it would come directly from the DfE, rather than the Local Authority, as it does now. We would join over 5,000 other schools that have successfully converted and we will be in a better position not only to manage the School in the way we want, but also to manage the School in the way we need to in order to continue providing outstanding educational provision for your children. We have also considered the risk of not converting and being ultimately encouraged to join another Academy chain or Multi Academy Trust ("MAT") which does not share our values and ethos.

After considering our options, with the support from the Local Authority, we have decided to create our own MAT, which we will name 'Perryfields Enterprise Academy Trust' ("PEAT"). In the future our school will review applications from other schools who wish to join our MAT. However we are committed to ensuring continued quality of provision at Perryfields Junior School and will only consider applications that do not detract from this vision.

Part of the Academy conversion process is for us to consult with you as parents and carers, and we would be delighted to hear from you about your suggestions and opinions on this proposed conversion. Please visit the school's website at <http://www.perryfields-jun.essex.sch.uk/> where you will find an Academy Conversion Consultation paper and a Frequently Asked Questions document. Please can I ask you to read these carefully and, if you would like to comment, please write to the school and head your comments as 'Academy Consultation'. Alternatively, we would welcome e-mail at our e-mail address: admin@perryfields-jun.essex.sch.uk Please do contact us as soon as possible; as the consultation process closes at 12.00 noon on 22nd July, 2016. If you'd like a hard copy of the two documents mentioned above please call in at the school office and copies will be printed for you.

In order to continue to ensure that Perryfields Junior School continues with its current ethos and is able to remain as a community driven school for all of our children both now and in the future, we firmly believe that conversion to Academy status as part of a Multi Academy Trust (PEAT) represents the best course of action for our school.

Yours sincerely

Jane Hasler
Headteacher

Sue Root
Chair of Governors

