



Ravensmead Primary School



The Richard Heathcote Primary School



Wood Lane Primary School



Sir Thomas Boughey High School

## Should Ravensmead become a Co-operative Academy? CONSULTATION

At Ravensmead we are always looking for new ways to improve what we do for our learners and our community. We are already working closely with local schools, some directly through the Sir Thomas Boughey Co-operative Learning Trust. This helps us to put our community values at the heart of what we do. The Governing Body has now decided that the time is right to build on those co-operative links by converting to academy status to form a local co-operative academy trust with other like-minded schools.

The schools that are working together to do this are:

- Ravensmead Primary School
- The Richard Heathcote Primary School
- Wood Lane Primary School
- Sir Thomas Boughey High School

We propose we should convert to academy at the same time in September 2016 to form a multi-academy trust of four schools.

### What is a multi-academy trust?

Academies are schools funded direct by the government, not through Staffordshire County Council. The Government has announced that they wish all schools to become academies by 2022 and to have a plan before then for doing so. The Government also believes no school should stand alone and that it should be part of a grouping of academies – a “multi-academy trust” or “MAT”.

We are proposing to set up our own MAT so that our schools together will remain all-ability, non-selective, local schools serving our own local community.

### Will teaching change?

The strong team at our school will stay in place, but we will have more flexibility to better meet the needs of our learners, now and into the future.

### Will admissions change?

No. School admissions arrangements will continue as they do now. Parents will continue to be able to exercise their choice of school.

### Will the uniform change?

We have no plans to change uniforms. If we were to wish to make some changes in the future, we would as now consult parents about this.

## **How will the new MAT help the member schools?**

As a co-operative of local schools the MAT will help each and every school do more than it could alone. For example, we will:

- Share the best teaching and learning practices across the schools;
- Improve the progression of our young people, including between primary and secondary education;
- Build a common development programme for our staff to the benefit of our young people;
- Share school administration and purchasing so that there are more resources for teaching and learning;
- Build a local reputation for excellence to encourage staff recruitment and parental confidence;
- Improve school leadership and governance to be accountable to those with the greatest interest in the school – parents, students, staff and the local community we serve.

## **Will there still be a Governing Body for our School?**

Yes; in addition to the academy trust board, there will be a separate local governing body for each member school in the MAT.

## **What would NOT change?**

- The school admission arrangements will stay the same.
- Ofsted would continue to inspect the school.
- We would continue to employ qualified staff on national pay and conditions.
- We would continue to work with our partners, Staffordshire CC and other schools.

## **How can I find out more?**

The consultation will run from noon on 27.04.16 until noon on 06.05.16

The Governing Body is consulting our stakeholders including Parents, Pupils, Staff and educational organisations we work with.

We are holding an information meeting on 26.04.16 at Sir Thomas Boughey High School – Main Hall. Please come along if you have any questions before you fill in a consultation questionnaire (attached and also on our website):

- Meeting for Staff – 4:30pm
- Community and Parents – 6:00pm

Pupils will be consulted through School Councils.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Bell  
Head teacher  
Ravensmead Primary School