



inspire. enjoy. achieve.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

8th October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will already be aware, the governing body of Ruishton Cof E Primary School has been issued with an Academy Order by the Secretary of State and is proposing forming The Oak Partnership. In accordance with the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, the governing body is consulting on whether the school's Academy conversion should take place. Further information about what becoming an Academy means, and how to comment on the proposals, is set out below.

Will Ruishton Cof E Primary School definitely become an Academy?

The governing body has received an Academy Order from the Secretary of State and is working towards a conversion in January 2019. However, the school is not obliged to become an Academy until the contract between The Oak Partnership and the Department for Education (known as the Funding Agreement) is signed.

The Oak Partnership will not sign the Funding Agreement until parents of pupils at the school, staff at the school and the pupils themselves have had an opportunity to comment on whether the school's Academy conversion should take place. We are writing to all parents and are inviting you to a meeting on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at 6pm, to learn more about the proposal to become an Academy, or to comment on the proposals. We will also be holding meetings with staff, and will be keeping pupils informed throughout the process.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by The Oak Partnership before a decision is taken to sign the Funding Agreement. Details of how to provide comments are set out below.

The Oak Partnership will not sign the Funding Agreement unless they are content that conversion would be in the best interest of the school, taking account of all legal and practical ramifications.

What is an Academy?

An Academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the local authority and receives its funding direct from central government.

It is proposed that Ruishton C of E Primary School will become an Academy as part of The Oak Partnership. This means that the school will be part of an Academy group comprised of Blackbrook Community Primary School, Ruishton C of E Primary School, Selworthy Special School and West Monkton C of E Primary School.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Head Teacher: Mr Chris Kamin BA (Hons) QTS

sch.289@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.ruishtonschool.co.uk



inspire. enjoy. achieve.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

What are the benefits of being an Academy?

In the school's opinion the benefits are numerous:

- Academies are independent of local authority control – this means that Academies have more freedom about how they conduct themselves;
- Academies receive their funding direct from central government – this means that Academies receive more funding because none is retained by the local authority for the provision of central services;
- Academies have more freedom over the curriculum taught – this means that Academies do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider appropriate for their pupils;
- Academies can set their own pay and conditions of service for their staff – Academies have the freedom to alter the pay and conditions of their staff (subject to normal employment law protections for staff) and so can provide staff with better pay and conditions than previously;
- Academies have more freedom – Academies are companies and so have more freedom to undertake innovative projects, such as setting up and utilising trading subsidiaries.

What liabilities does an Academy take on?

The Oak Partnership will be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety and property maintenance. However, as mentioned above, Academies receive more funding from central government to help them meet these additional costs.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

As a Voluntary Controlled school, our admissions arrangements are set by the local authority, and the local authority also decides which pupils should be offered places at the school. As an Academy, The Oak Partnership will put in place admission arrangements, and decide which pupils should be offered places in accordance with those arrangements. The Academy will still be bound by the national Admissions Code, and Admissions Appeals Code.

The current admissions arrangements will remain in place for the time being. If the Academy wants to change its admissions arrangements consultation would be required.

Will staff leave?

If the school converts to an Academy, all staff currently employed by the school will automatically transfer to the new Academy on their current terms and conditions. Although the Academy will have more freedom to amend those pay and conditions in the future, the governing body does not intend to take such a step in the foreseeable future and in any event, any changes to pay and conditions would need to be consulted upon with staff representatives.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Head Teacher: Mr Chris Kamin BA (Hons) QTS

sch.289@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.ruishtonschool.co.uk



inspire. enjoy. achieve.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Will Ruishton Cof E Primary School change?

We do not intend to change Ruishton Cof E Primary School except in ways which we think will improve the school even more. For pupils, it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day to day school lives. Academies do have the power to vary their curriculum and vary the length of the school day; however, it is not intended to take any such steps at this stage and would engage with parents, staff and pupils if we did ever intend to make such changes in the future.

How can I find out more?

A meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at 6pm. We would encourage you to attend if you have any questions, or simply want to learn more.

There is also more information about academies on the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

If you cannot find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, and cannot attend the meeting on Wednesday 7th November 2018, please email Chris Kamin on ckamin@educ.somerset.gov.uk or come in to the office where we will be able to assist you.

How can I make representations?

To respond to this consultation representations can be made in writing to:

Chair of Governors
Ruishton C of E Primary School
Newlands Road
Ruishton
TA3 5JZ

Or by email to:

Cel-abbar@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The closing date for representations to be made is Tuesday 27th November 2018

We look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting on Wednesday 7th November 2018.

This meeting is part of a series of meetings held at all the schools looking to form The Oak Partnership. If you cannot make your own school's meeting you are welcome to attend any of the other meetings all being held at 6pm.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Head Teacher: Mr Chris Kamin BA (Hons) QTS

sch.289@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.ruishtonschool.co.uk



inspire. enjoy. achieve.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

School	Meeting Date
Ruishton CofE Primary School	7 th November 2018
Selworthy Special School	8 th November 2018
Blackbrook Community Primary School	12 th November 2018
West Monkton CofE Primary School	13 th November 2018

Every best wish

CKamin

Chris Kamin
Headteacher

CElabbar

Caroline El-Abbar
Chair of Governors

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Head Teacher: Mr Chris Kamin BA (Hons) QTS

sch.289@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.ruishtonschool.co.uk