

THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL

A Church of England Academy

Head Teacher Mr D J Gray MA, NPQH



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27th February 2019

Dear Parents

I write regarding the decision of the Governors of The Piggott School to consult on applying to the Regional Schools Commissioner and Education and Skills Funding Agency to form a multi academy trust (MAT) by applying for a significant change: de-amalgamating Wargrave Piggott senior school and Charvil Piggott primary school. By de-amalgamating we would become a primary school and a secondary school within our own multi academy trust.

As you know we are currently an all through school with ages from four to eighteen. The initial intention, before Charvil Piggott opened, was that Charvil and Wargrave would be a multi-academy trust of two schools. Delays prior to opening Charvil meant it was expedient, so that Charvil could open in September 2013, to extend the age range at Wargrave to include Charvil, and thus become an all-through school. This has caused significant funding issues over the past five years.

The main reason for the decision to consult now on a significant change to become a Multi Academy Trust is to secure long term financial stability.

The rationale behind the formation of a MAT stems from a number of changes to funding that have been introduced by the National Funding Formula (NFF). The NFF guidance allows local authorities to adopt a Minimum per Pupil Funding model but unfortunately there exists a great injustice within the guidance for all-through schools. In reality this means we will receive £105,000 less via NFF because we are an all-through school as compared to being a Multi Academy Trust of two schools.

The parents of children at Charvil Primary need not be concerned regarding any potential change to admissions arrangements to Wargrave Senior upon de-amalgamating. We would change our admissions policy for Wargrave Senior so that children at Charvil Primary receive preferential admissions placement at Wargrave Senior via a change to our Admissions Policy naming Charvil Primary as our sole linked primary school as Criterion B. This would guarantee children at Charvil Primary were allocated places at Wargrave in the normal admissions round each year.

The relationship between Charvil and Wargrave will continue to flourish, and there would be no detriment to the education of children in forming a MAT. Our ethos and values would remain the same. Indeed, the Governing Body are confident this change will make our work together stronger and enable us to fulfil our vision of being a world-class learning community.

The formation of a MAT would allow the creation of academy advisory committees at Wargrave and at Charvil, with a Trustee Board overseeing both schools. We would also seek to appoint a Head of School for Charvil.

Despite having extensively lobbied Wokingham Borough Council's Officers and School Forum, the Department for Education and their NFF policy team I have not received a favourable response.



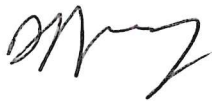
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I have also raised the issue with my professional association and the Department for Education, and will be writing to the National Schools Commissioner, the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister for their support in addressing this inequality in funding. That said, the recently released February 2019 guidance continues to include this inequality.

Our consultation period starts today, 27th February 2019, and ends on 10th May 2019. Please send any responses to this consultation to MATconversion@piggottschool.org. There will also be consultation events at Wargrave Piggott on Monday 4th March at 6pm and Charvil Piggott on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 2:30pm and also at 7pm.

Yours sincerely



D J Gray

Headteacher

For, and on behalf of, the Governing Body of The Piggott School



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