

Mayfield parent consultation about proposed MAT

Over the past weeks and months, the Mayfield Governing Body has held consultations, invited feedback and emailed explanations and updates to all parents. It was clear in the parent consultation that we are all motivated by the same aim – to provide the very best education for the children in our schools.

Potentially becoming a founder school of Innovation Trust is a big step and we are still consulting and carrying out due diligence to understand the potential impact on our financial situation, staff terms and conditions, land and buildings, contracts, governance, legal and contractual.

There are still some unknowns and potential risks. How can these be reduced?

By focusing on our vision and ethos:

- By forming our own MAT we can decide how we want to work and define our own vision.
- A *priority* for Mayfield is to retain our individuality and the ability to serve our communities.

By maintaining a Mayfield Governing Body:

- We will be keeping the Mayfield Governing Body and parent governors will continue to play a vital role.

By ensuring good practice and management across the MAT:

- We have recruited high calibre Members and Directors and have proper separation between the two groups to ensure full compliance with good practice.
- We will take a careful and considered approach to expansion.
- We are performing careful due diligence at this stage and will repeat that as new schools want to join.

By listening and learning:

- We will not embark on the MAT if the financial due diligence reveals that we will be disadvantaged.
- We are aware of the failings and successes of some other MATs and can learn from them.

We are keen to have feedback and questions from parents. At the consultation meetings a further meeting was requested and we indicated this could be arranged. We welcome parents to a meeting on **Thursday 15th March** at **7.00pm**

An extension to the consultation deadline was also requested and we actioned this immediately with a week's extension and we are happy to extend this again to **Friday 23rd March**

Questions can be submitted in writing to the school office or emailed to

mat@mayfield.cambs.sch.uk

Why form a MAT?

We've been asked by some parents to outline the key reasons for why we are considering forming a MAT.

- The prospect of being a founder school with other primary schools is exciting, we would be at the forefront.
- Strengthening leadership, not only at headship level but also across the school, is something we are passionate about – building future leaders. At headship level this is a challenging job – it will be beneficial to discuss what is happening in each school to a level that we do not have with the Local Authority.
- Taking business roles away from the head so the heads can focus on teaching and learning. Head teachers know far too much, and spent much time, on premises and personnel policies. If we can pass on policy writing as a central function that would be brilliant. If someone centrally can sort out all the various contracts such as grounds maintenance, buildings maintenance, catering, human resources, IT systems, banking, curriculum support and specialist support that would be

brilliant. Let head teachers get back to focussing on teaching and learning.

- The potential for greater, meaningful, professional development of all levels and types of staff. Support from the Local Authority has diminished and we having to seek out quality professional development. We can have some training days together, we can moderate together, the more we can share and learn from each other the more we can continue to improve outcomes for the children.
- The potential to support and be supported by other schools and not be in competition. A commitment to a wider community of children and staff. We need to be able to offer the best opportunities to our staff – our current teachers who work with other schools enjoy this extra layer to their roles and that feeds back into support and enthusiasm within our school, directly benefitting the children.
- Joining together formally with other schools to give us access to bid for other pots of money
- The possibility of creating new, shared roles, that individual schools cannot afford e.g. specialist teachers, speech therapy

Mayfield Primary School



MAT Parent Consultation

Summary Sheet
23 February 2018