

## To Become an Academy or Not – Mayfield’s Journey So Far

Over the last eighteen months the governing body has undertaken an exploration as to whether or not Mayfield should become an academy.

*At the heart of every discussion and every decision is the welfare and education of the children at Mayfield.*

The process has been complex and challenging. Members of the governing body have had to consider options that for some of us fundamentally challenge our values.

However, two main drivers became apparent; the potential to improve teaching and learning further through the formation of a MAT; the need to address how we go forward as an LA school given the state of our LA and the ever diminishing support it can offer us. These issues steered the GB to believe that in principle the formation of a MAT would be the best outcome for the children.

Having arrived at this decision the next stage of the process is to test it out and check that it stands up to scrutiny.

### **This is done by:**

#### **Consulting with parents**

Questions asked by parents are vital to highlight potential pitfalls. The GB has scrutinised every question put to them against the knowledge they have gained during the process to this point. In some cases questions from parents have now become actions to be included in the potential formation of the MAT. For example ensuring any future CEO has teaching experience.

#### **Consulting with staff**

Staff have been given the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns within school and also in a meeting with unions.

#### **Due diligence**

A complex exercise of checking that each school is managed efficiently and to uncover any potential concerns for the future.

#### **Finances**

An analysis of finances of all schools and the potential future MAT to check whether academisation is financially viable.

If any of the above were not to stand up to scrutiny by the GB then the process will not continue.

The GB want to reassure all parents and carers that the ‘decision in principle’ to become an academy has not been taken lightly, rather it has been taken after lengthy investigations and discussions.

This ‘decision in principle’ is not final and has to stand up to the check and balances outlined above.

*Our hope is that parents and carers, in light of the rigorous process that has been undertaken to reach a decision within the changing landscape we find ourselves, will support and trust that the decision to either become a MAT or remain with the LA is the right one for Mayfield and the children that we serve.*