

## Response to questions from the consultation so far

**Why you would want to pursue/evaluate an academy and what gaps you are looking to address?**

Small schools are becoming more vulnerable and in working in a bigger partnership we can build the sustainability to keep providing a good education for our children. Our schools are an important part of their community and to provide a better service and longevity we need to work collaboratively with organisations that can offer that support and security

**What does it mean in terms of the attainment record of pupils? Do we suddenly have to push our children to be academic or high achieving? We will continue as we do now to support children to make the best progress they can in their time with us, their personal development is as important as their academic achievement.**

**Is there any extra testing? No**

**Does it come with any extra funding? If there is no financial advantage to the school then why do it? There is no mention of how this would practically advantage the school?**

As a school we receive our budget directly from the Department for Education (DFE), the services we currently buy from the Local Authority (LA) would then be bought through Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT), e.g HR, health and safety, IT e.t.c.

DCAT have access to additional bids for capital funding which they give to schools for development works. Some examples they gave were Speech and language specialists, counselling, new boilers, building and playground projects e.t.c.

**Will there be less funding for spending on the children's learning? Children's learning will continue to be the focus of funding. At present the majority of the school budget is spent on staffing and this will not change**

**Will the Trust be able to divert the LA money 'assigned' to Laughton to another school if there is a specific need and therefore is there a future potential reduction in our school funds or are we guaranteed a minimum per year? No our school receives its funding on a per pupil basis and a national formula**

**What does it mean to children who have Education Health and Care Plan's (EHCP) if anything? There is no change to the provision or funding entitlements for children with EHCPs or those on the pathway. DCAT have a strong Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) team who meet regularly with Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO) to share best practice in providing provision**

**What would we lose at school if this becomes a reality, it must come with Cons?** We would no longer be a federation but we can continue to work in the way we do in sharing staff and having the same curriculum, one governing body e.t.c.

**As a parent will I be advised if an unqualified teacher is teaching my child?** All teachers will be qualified

**Would staffing remain as is today? (Outside of personal decisions)** Yes

**Will there be a management restructure?** No, if senior leaders were to leave then there may be a change to the structure but this would be decided by the school's governing board

**How would a change like this impact my child day to day?** Your child may not notice anything straight away as the support would be for staff in access to training and mental health support and for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in support for management systems and whole school improvement. DCAT do offer enrichment activities and have a good partnership with their other schools in broadening opportunities for children so we hope the children will be able to take part in these as they arise.

**Will there be any guarantee that pupils will always be able to play on the green field behind Laughton School?** The Pelham field belongs to the Parish Council so it will remain a public space for as long as they wish it to

**Will it mean a sudden influx of new students?** No, however we are looking to increase our numbers at both schools as our capacity is 105 at both.

**Are there any risks that the two schools could be merged on to just one site, or that they could lose their discrete identities?** No there is not capacity for either building to extend and both schools will be able to remain unique in their identity

**Will that mean that children follow a religious bases at Laughton?** No Laughton will remain a Community school with the same access to RE as they do now

**What are the reasons the school has looked at this option?** The governing body has had a sustainability group for the last 3 years looking at how we can plan for our schools in the next 5-10 years. We have considered extending the federation, joining a Trust or what would happen if we did nothing. Small schools are vital to their communities and the families who seek out small schools for their child's education. We want to be in the driving seat of what happens at Firle CEP and Laughton CP so have researched these options and feel that DCAT has the capacity to enable us to be more effective and sustainable.

**What would this mean for the schools when it comes to the day to day running? For example will the new behaviour policy need to change again?** The behaviour policy is down to individual schools so that it is specific for that school. Any updates would be made by SLT in consultation with staff and parents then ratified by the governing body