

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mousehold Infant and Nursery School

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Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Rebecca Westall, Mr Ian Tolson, Miss Zoë Wood



12th March 2018

A Consultation about the Proposal for Mousehold Infant and Nursery School to become an Academy as part of the Inclusive Schools Trust (IST)

EXTENDING THE CONSULTATION to MONDAY 16th April 2018

Dear Parents and Staff,

Thank you for all your contributions to our consultation so far. I thought it a good time to summarise where we have reached and outline what happens next.

So far, all parents and school staff have had a letter that explains about the process and why joining the Inclusive Schools Trust is the right move for our school. If you need another copy, please do ask at the school office. If you have anything that you want to ask, or you think there is anything you don't understand, please do contact school and Mrs Westall. It is important that you feel as fully informed as possible about why we are considering this future for our school.

We have had 2 parent and staff consultation meetings on 7th March. As a result of that meeting, we are now extending the consultation period to Monday 16th April and there will be another opportunity to attend a public parent consultation on Tuesday 27th March at 2:00pm. All written consultation feedback will be accepted throughout the holiday until April 16th.

Please do try to come to the meeting, and if you can't but would like to take part, please contact school who will make appropriate arrangements. If you have any questions or want any further explanation about anything, please do not hesitate to either write to me at school, e mail school, talk to Mrs Westall or a parent governor (Mrs Michala Carlisle, Mr Paul Mills or Mr Tom Reid.) We are all keen to address any concerns or information gaps you may have.

What Happens Next

When the period of consultation is closed, I will summarise the questions that have been asked and the answers and send everyone a copy.

The Full Governing Body will meet in April and after a final discussion we will then vote. I will notify every one of the results of the vote and the next steps.



Here are some questions raised so far and the answers:

Is there a specific window of opportunity for Mousehold to join the trust or is it open-ended?

There is no 'specific window' but we have seen the trust grow and we also have grown as a school. Our values and vision are now very close.

We considered the possibility of joining a trust this time last year. The Inclusive Trust came to talk to our Governing Body. We all felt that we wanted to see the trust grow and give it a year before we think again. Within that time the head teacher has worked closely with the Trust to ensure it is right for Mousehold with a shared ethos and values. The head and the Trust have worked more closely over the year and feel professionally very comfortable working with like-minded heads who are all serving the same demographic of community. The priorities are shared and unique to us, which is different to a Trust based in a completely different catchment area or locality.

Will Mousehold still retain its own SENCO and Site Manager if joining the trust?

Yes

How will the relationship between George White Junior School and Mousehold improve from what it is now from joining the trust? How will the children benefit?

Children will benefit because they will be working together throughout the year not just at transition points at the end of the year. This might look like joint projects with Year 2 and Year 3. Teachers from both schools could be working on a joint aspect of school improvement such as our growth mind-set work so when children move into George White, this approach continues. Both Head teachers will be part of the formal Trust Head teacher meetings so they will have the time and space to talk about things their schools have in common. If both head teachers really establish working together as part of the ethos of both schools, when they are no longer heads at these schools it will be normal practice for the next head teacher. This will only be guaranteed if both schools are in the Trust.

Will there be any major changes to the curriculum at Mousehold from joining the trust?

No. Our curriculum is our choice and our curriculum maps (as on website) will only be adapted to suit our children as they are every year anyway.

Whilst I understand that the school budget will stay the same, the Trust will top-slice 5% of this. As such, the school itself will essentially have a 5% lower budget than currently. Will the 5% reduction in real terms to the school have any impact on the running of and if so, how?

We currently are funded from Norfolk County Council who remove 5% before they allocate the budget. We will, therefore, see no change to our budget. Instead of giving 5% to Norfolk County Council we will give 5% to the Trust.



What has been the reaction from staff? Have there been any concerns raised?

The reaction from staff has been wholly positive. The Head has consulted with them in 4 groups. They said they value how honest and open we are being and they feel since Mousehold has been working with other schools we have improved considerably in our outward facing approach. Most said they would not want to join any other Trust who don't understand our catchment. The work we mostly do with other schools is Lionwood and George White. Joining the Trust would formalize our working together and ensure we could work together even more. We had a few questions about pay, conditions and pension. These all remain the same and we will continue to use Norfolk HR.

My very Best Wishes



Maureen F Hanke
Chair of Governors

