

## NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mousehold Infant and Nursery School

Mousehold Avenue

Norwich

NR3 4RS

Tel. (01603) 427012

Fax. (01603) 487922

Email: [office@mousehold.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@mousehold.norfolk.sch.uk)

Website: [www.mouseholdinfants.com](http://www.mouseholdinfants.com)



Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Westall

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ian Tolson

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

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

***If you would like this letter translated please ask at the school office.***

Dear Parents and Staff,

The consultation about our school joining the Inclusive School Trust has now ended. We would like to thank everyone who has taken part. The governors have collected together and read everything that the school community have said. We have carefully considered all the points that have been raised and I am happy to provide this following summary that governors have prepared.

### **Consultation process**

The consultation included the school council, three parental meetings (attended by local councillors) and a staff meeting. Written responses were received from 15 parents/carers, 20 staff and 3 members of the local community. Seven parents met separately with the Headteacher.

### **Summary of Responses**

Children described an academy as *"It is a group of schools that work together"* and *"It's where schools can learn together"*.

Children were then asked what would Mousehold look like if we became an academy. Some responses included *"Would we have to move schools?"*, *"Will we have a new uniform?"* and *"What if new children come here and they don't behave well and don't understand our high five?"*.

Children were also asked for any worries or concerns. Some responses included *"Would the teachers all leave?"*, *"Would we keep our playground?"* with a final comment of *"So the school, the teachers and the children would stay the same?"*

Written responses from parents conveyed a broad ranges of opinions, such as

- *I think it is a positive development to become part of an existing 'local' academy trust, rather than one of the more corporate/larger trusts that have had much bad press in our area.*
- *I feel that Mousehold becoming an academy is a really positive thing and that the children will benefit from being at a school that will be working so closely with other schools.*
- *It is important that schools become academies on their own terms and remain rooted in their local communities, rather than be taken over by unknown outside bodies with unknown motives and agendas.*



- *I am still extremely uncomfortable with the idea that the school is part of a business... it is very difficult to see this as anything other than the privatisation of education, which I am completely against.*
- *Looking and reading into this, I am not happy for the school to convert to academy. I strongly believe that local council are best suited to stay as they are. The school is 'outstanding' in OFSTED report and I see no reason viable to make the switch.*
- *I would like to express my concern at this proposal due to the risks associated with joining an academy.*

The majority of written responses from staff were positive about the proposal:

- *I am quite excited by the new professional development opportunities this process leads to. A real chance to develop and enrich lots of the practice in the school.*
- *I see this as an exciting change for our school. I can see huge benefits for the children in our community with regard to accessing resources, consistency with George White and Mousehold staff development.*
- *I'm so excited about the proposal of academisation. Since starting at Mousehold I've always believed it was outstanding. However I strongly believe we can learn enormous amounts from other schools. Academisation provides us with this – formally.*
- *I think it's a very positive and exciting move forward for Mousehold.*
- *If anything, the way that this process has been handled has only served to deepen my confidence in school leadership. My morale is not diminished – on the contrary!*
- *I believe in state education, accountable to the local community and parents. I am opposed to academisation.*

Following the end of the consultation period, the full governing board met on 18<sup>th</sup> April and we discussed everything that had been submitted, particularly finances, sustaining the current ethos of the trust, influencing decision making in IST, our developing relationship with George White Junior school and forming a school parent board.

We all agreed that the level of challenge on such a big decision was necessary and very helpful and one thing the whole school community shares is a great commitment and dedication to our children, our teachers, our community and future generations of children. At the end of the Governors meeting we voted in favour of taking the next step towards becoming an academy as part of the Inclusive Schools Trust (IST).

### **What Happens Next?**

We start by sending our application to the Secretary of State for Education.

I want to re-assure you that your children will continue to receive outstanding teaching and learning. We will continue to communicate throughout the process to ensure all are aware of each stage. We will provide regular updates to keep you informed of the process and time scales. Within these updates there will be answers to the questions the community has asked throughout the process so far.

My very best wishes



Maureen F Hanke  
Chair of Governors

