

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mousehold Infant and Nursery School

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25th May 2018

Dear Parents,

Update on our progress

I am pleased to release this, our first update on the move to joining the Inclusive Schools Trust (IST). I want to re-assure everyone that we are progressing as planned and so far there are no hitches.

The Inclusive Schools Trust is a multi-academy trust, which is both a charitable trust and a company limited by guarantee. The conversion process includes the following key legal processes:

1. Applying to the Department for Education (DFE) to become an Academy.
2. Transferring the employment of the staff from the local authority to IST following a statutory process (TUPE);
3. Agreeing a Commercial Transfer Agreement for the transfer of assets and contracts from the local authority to IST; and
4. Arranging a 125 year lease for the land and buildings with the local authority.

We have completed number 1 and have sent the formal application to the DfE and are waiting their response.

The governing body also felt parents would be interested in reading some of the main points raised during the consultation and how they were addressed. The school administration team have collected and filed all the consultation documents, e mails, meeting notes etc and this month I have drawn out the thoughts around finance.

1. As part of the IST we want to continue getting the best return from our funding and by pooling it, we want to make sure that the benefits go even further than they currently do. It's about getting better value for money.

2. Currently the LEA take about 5% of the budget for central services, but these services are being reduced and we will soon have to pay extra charges for some services on top of this.
3. Inclusive Schools Trust would also take 5% of the budget for central services, including a contribution to a proportion of the pay of the CEO and other senior central staff, but we will benefit from them because we will see more return on our 5% investment.
4. The amount allocated for our school by the government remains the same amount as if we were still within the local authority.
5. All staff will continue their employment as part of the IST on their current pay structure and conditions of employment.

An interesting and important worry was raised:

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.

The school is already a business. The governors have a duty to ensure that we plan our budget wisely. This means that we spend all our funds carefully and without leaving an excess or going into debt. We will continue to do this.

May I take the opportunity to wish you a restful and happy half term. The next update will be released on Friday 29th June.



Maureen Hanke

Chair of Governors