

# **Academy Conversion Consultation**

**Thingwall Primary School**

**Parents & Carers Consultation**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**



# Thingwall Primary School Motto & Rules

- ▶ School Motto
  - ▶ Thingwall Primary School
  - ▶ Teachers...Parents...Students
  - ▶ Together Promoting Success
  
- ▶ School Rules
  - ▶ Ready
  - ▶ Respectful
  - ▶ Safe



# Introduction - Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome & Introductions**
- ▶ **What is an academy?**
- ▶ **Reasons for considering to convert to academy status**
- ▶ **Why Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust?**



# What is an academy?

- ▶ Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an academy trust.
- ▶ Academies have more autonomy over how they do things than community schools.
- ▶ Academies are inspected by Ofsted.
- ▶ They have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools and pupils sit the same exams/tests.



# Reasons we are considering academy status

- ▶ LAs are finding it increasingly hard to provide bespoke support for schools in the current economic climate.
- ▶ A MAT will offer the school strategic direction.
- ▶ The combined approach to school improvement (from Thingwall and the MAT) will enable us to drive through higher standards in teaching and learning & leadership and management. We believe that staff on all levels will be very well supported.
- ▶ Joining a MAT will mean greater opportunities to collaborate with other schools and opportunities to learn/improve from each other.
- ▶ Pupils will benefit from increased opportunities for collaborative projects, shared expertise, tournaments, events etc.



## Reasons we are considering academy status

- ▶ Additional support for finance, H&S, HR, facilities management and project management will become available, meaning that staff can prioritise teaching and learning which will impact on standards of teaching and learning.
- ▶ Academies have greater control over how and when they do things than an LA community school might have.
- ▶ A MAT would enable us to secure the best value opportunities and outcomes for Thingwall pupils.



# Why convert now?

- ▶ Converting now will give us more flexibility financially at a time when budgets are being squeezed. At present, school's money comes from the LA. Converting to a MAT will mean the money comes directly from the government and this will give us greater control over our spending.
- ▶ A MAT will mean we can get access more easily to CIF funding for our school. This is money for funding projects that address health and safety issues, building compliance and buildings in poor condition.
- ▶ We will see the benefit of economies of scale – being in a MAT of several schools will mean that we can secure better value for money by buying in bulk.
- ▶ This is an opportunity to join a group of like-minded Wirral schools and will enable us to work with established, highly experienced Wirral colleagues whom we trust.



## Why convert now?

- ▶ Converting now will mean that we have a choice over the MAT we join. The governing body have thoroughly researched for quite some time and we believe that this is the MAT that will offer our school the best opportunities. If we wait to make a decision we will have less choice over which MAT we go to as they will inevitably reach capacity.



# Why Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust?

- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT is a Wirral based established MAT with a proven track record of success.
- ▶ Travel time to meetings will be kept to a minimum as all schools are based in Wirral – help is never far away if needed.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT values, ethos and community minded approach aligns with Thingwall.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT offers increased opportunities for high quality CPD, really focussed on up to date and relevant school improvement.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT offers further opportunities to collaborate/share expertise with a greater amount of successful schools. We have followed this collaborative approach for many years with the Reach Collaboration of schools and know this approach works. The Oak Trees MAT is the next natural step for our school.



# Why Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust?

- ▶ We will remain Thingwall Primary, joining the Oak Trees MAT will not change our curriculum, ethos, uniform, staffing or provision. Joining the Oak Trees MAT will enable us to refine and improve what we already have at Thingwall. The Oak Trees MAT will allow us to retain our autonomy.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT will give us access to a greater variety of events, CPD, funding revenues and speakers.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT have a well thought out and staggered growth plan, meaning every school will benefit from bespoke support throughout the conversion journey.
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT has an excellent reputation within Wirral and with the Regional Director (Regional Department for Education (DfE) Directors).
- ▶ The Oak Trees MAT is a Wirral trust and, as such, they are accountable to the Wirral community whom they serve.



# Why Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust?

- ▶ We will remain who we are! No changes to:
  - ▶ the school name
  - ▶ the school day
  - ▶ curriculum
  - ▶ staffing
  - ▶ uniform
  - ▶ SEND top-up funding will continue to be provided by the LA
  - ▶ the LGB will continue to provide support and challenge



# The Proposal

Proposal is for Thingwall Primary School to convert to academy status and join Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust on 1st September 2023



# Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust's Mission & Values

Oak Trees is an exciting Wirral-based Multi Academy Trust consisting of 7 Wirral schools with shared values:

## **Our Trust Mission**

‘Achieving Excellence Together’

## **Our Trust values:**

- ▶ Respect - Our Trust is built on strong relationships and we work together for the good of our children and families.
- ▶ Collaboration - This is at the heart of what we do. Our teams work together on a range of tasks and areas, and there is always someone to help.
- ▶ Inspiration - Our schools work together to inspire our staff and our children. We work with national trainers and inspirational Trust leaders for the good of our schools.



# Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Schools

Poulton Lancelyn, Church Drive, Egremont, Great Meol's, Stanton Road & Brackenwood Juniors, Greasby Junior School



## What do We Stand For As a Trust?

- ▶ We are dedicated to helping the whole child, unlock their potential, and instill a love of learning.
- ▶ We share the wealth of experience and expertise from across our trust to enrich and bring learning to life for our children.
- ▶ We work together to help our schools to improve – adding the capacity that the Local Authority haven't got.
- ▶ We are a local Trust – this enables us to have local joint events, sports matches, competitions – e.g. MAT song day and show, sports days, Unilever – we are all Wirral schools and understand the Wirral context
- ▶ Every member of staff in our trust genuinely cares about the achievement, development, well-being, and future of **all** of our children – we are a team!



## What do We Stand For As a Trust?

- ▶ We believe that all schools should have their own leadership team and Headteacher and a strong Governing Body.
- ▶ School leaders continue to make their own decisions for their own schools and community – MAT leaders are there to help, support and facilitate but it is up to the school how they run on a day to day basis – it is your school!
- ▶ We listen to the school community and use that feedback to improve – parents, pupils, staff, Governors
- ▶ Training – access to key trainers in many areas
- ▶ Support – access to expertise from other leaders, curriculum leaders etc.
- ▶ MAT is lead by experienced educational specialists with over 30 years of leadership experience



## Key Things To Know

- ▶ Wirral Trust
- ▶ School is accountable to the local community - and all Local Governing Bodies have parent representation on them as before
- ▶ Team – collaboration and relationships are the key!
- ▶ All schools follow the national curriculum and will continue to do so
- ▶ Everything we do is with integrity and through listening to each community
- ▶ Strong performance and feedback
- ▶ Plan is to grow in the right way and ensure all schools performing well
- ▶ Thingwall Primary School will remain as before – we value the community and the distinctiveness of each school, and this is part of the Trust ethos



## Timeline of Activity

- ▶ Formal consultation 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- ▶ Consultation report and findings – February 2023
- ▶ Governors to make a decision on whether to proceed
- ▶ Proposed opening date of conversion and joining Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023
- ▶ Regular communication with staff / parents / pupils / community



# ***Any thoughts or questions?***

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