

Chilton Primary School



Chilton
Ferryhill
Co. Durham
DL17 OPT

Tel: 01388 720255
01388 721619

E-Mail: Chilton@durhamlearning.net
School No. 2002

Head Teacher: Mrs A Pybus-Coates

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs A Caine

21st June 2017

Consultation on Chilton Primary School converting to Academy status with a view to becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust.

You may be aware that many schools nationally and across County Durham are considering their future status in the light of the Government's policy that schools should become academies. Over the past 18 months, the Governing Body and senior leaders of Chilton Primary School have been extensively exploring a range of options to secure the best future for our school.

I would like to assure all parents that by consulting on this issue now, Chilton Primary School will be able to maintain more control over its ultimate destiny and protect those aspects that drew you to it in the first place. It is my belief - and that of staff and the governors - that this development will only enhance the educational experience and opportunities for all children at our school even further.

As a school that is rated 'Good' by Ofsted, Chilton is in a strong position to be able to choose its future direction and - if it joined a Trust at this time - we would play a strong part in influencing its future strategy and policies.

Academy status is intended to promote innovation and flair by giving school leaders more freedom to decide how best to meet the needs of their pupils, parents and wider communities. A vital part of the Government's stated vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos, strong vision and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision. We believe Academy status will help us to achieve this vision.

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We are committed to ensuring that in making this change, the ethos, values and individuality of Chilton Primary School will be retained. Some important matters would not change if we were to become an Academy:-

- We will retain our current ethos and values represented by Chilton Primary's motto 'Learn to live - live to Learn'.
- We will continue to be named Chilton Primary School - and our uniform and logos will not change.
- Our Creative Curriculum, extra-curricular programme, school day, pastoral support and guidance and general organisation of the school will not be affected.
- The teaching and the resources currently provided to Chilton Primary School will all continue.

The academisation process is a significant journey - and as part of that process we are now in a position to consult in a more formal way with parents and carers, as well as the school and wider community. The views of all our stakeholders are important to us.

Information and a consultation form will be added to our website from the week 26th June; we intend to host an information event at the school on Tuesday 11th July between 3pm and 5 pm to answer any questions. Hard copies of the consultation form will also be made available at the End-of-Year Parents' Evening on Monday 10th July. Alternatively, views can also be shared with the school either via a letter addressed to myself, or by email to chilton@durhamlearning.net.

The consultation period will end on 21st July when governors will evaluate feedback.

Please be reassured that Chilton Primary School is - and will continue to be - a high performing school that encourages and celebrates a love of learning, working at the heart of our local community. We are focused on providing the very best educational experience for our children and their families - and believe that this next step will provide an even stronger foundation for our future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Pybus-Coates
Headteacher



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