



*“Reaching for the stars together, to be  
the best that we can be”*

Headteacher: [admin@selby-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@selby-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
Mr Ian Clennan BSc (Hons) MA NPQ

Monday, November 14, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to you on behalf of the governing body of Selby Community Primary School to ask your views about joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). If this happens, it would come into operation within the next academic year. We believe this is the most beneficial way forward for our school.

We have known for some time that schools need to work in partnership to ensure the best possible education for children. We have also been aware that the government agenda is for a ‘school-led system’ where Local Authorities have a very much reduced role. To this end we have built up our collaborative partnerships locally and nationally.

The work we do with other schools, as part of the North Star Teaching School Alliance, reflects the strategic vision of head teachers and governors to prepare for the school-led system. As an alliance we work across a large geographical area within the county and the new links we have made are constantly challenging us to learn from each other, and to work more closely together.

**The proposal to become an Academy within a Trust of like-minded schools will ensure children continue to receive a high standard of education despite recent and further cuts to the Local Authority. This coming together will ensure a smooth, well-managed transition from a Local Authority to a school-led system.**

We would therefore like to seek your feedback before we progress this proposal formally with the Department for Education.

- We will be holding a parents’ meeting to discuss this matter at **5.00 pm on Tuesday 22/11/16** and at **9.00 am on Wednesday 23/11/16**.

Alternatively, you can email us at [academy@selby-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:academy@selby-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk) with your queries.

We have prepared a series of Q&As, which we hope will provide you with all the relevant information;

### What different kinds of academies are there?

- Most people know about the ones that are run by large organisations who use their general management expertise in order to run groups of schools. These can be large secondary schools, or in some cases commercial enterprises, which provide a profit from schools to pay dividends to shareholders.



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- There are also academies that are formed by groups of schools coming together to pool their expertise and resources, but where the emphasis is on retaining all that is best about the member schools. These academies are run by boards with governors and head teachers of the schools involved, together with co-opted members to ensure a full range of expertise. They are entirely educationally focused, there are no shareholders and no profits are made from the academy. **This is the model that we are proposing to adopt.**

### **Why are we doing this now?**

- Because all member schools will benefit from a shared bank of best practice, expertise and resources, which will be available if our schools work together in closer partnership.
- Currently, as a school under the Local Authority, we are limited as to how we can use our funding and some funding is held back to deliver central services. However as part of a Multi Academy Trust we will have more autonomy to use our funding how we see fit, and in so doing make better use of the resources available to us.

### **Who is the Multi Academy Trust that the school is proposing to join?**

- It is called Selby Educational Trust (SET). It has been set up by Selby College to improve the educational standards and outcomes for the community the schools collectively serve.
- Each school joining SET will seek to be transformational and strive for outstanding all round achievement and success for every child. Staff will share their expertise, high-performing educational values, knowledge and skills and inspire a culture of collaboration between primary and secondary schools within the district we serve.
- The Trust provides a range of expertise and support services through its local partnership of primary and secondary schools and the college.
- Since forming the Multi-Academy Trust, they have developed a specialist team of staff able to support partners; providing curriculum and support consultants with tried and tested experience of successfully managing school and college departments. Each consultant is dedicated to improving individual partner school performance.
- Their specialist team provides support on a wide range of issues affecting education partners including, Leadership, Behaviour support, Managing Information, Communications and Technology, Governance, HR, Finance, Marketing and Communications, Project Management, Estates and Facilities and Academy Conversion.
- Further details available at [www.selbyeducationaltrust.uk](http://www.selbyeducationaltrust.uk)

### **How will it be different from how our schools work at the moment?**

#### **Most things will remain the same:**

- Each school will continue to have its own individual Aims and Values, and will continue to concentrate on all the things that make each school successful.
- The school will keep their own head teacher and their individual governing bodies.
- Each school will keep its own uniform and continue to set its own curriculum.
- The admission process will remain the same – remaining with the Local Authority.
- Your children will continue to be taught by their usual teachers and the children will notice no difference in their school day.



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**These are the things that will be different:**

- It will be much easier to exchange ideas and good practice, allowing all schools to benefit from strengths found in individual schools.
- We will share data, and support each other to make improvements in our individual schools.
- The schools will be able to share services, providing better value for money.

We hope this has made it clear that we wish to be in a position where we have choice and freedom to keep our school – the school where you have chosen to send your children - as it is at present.

Please do contact us if you wish to ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**John Warburton**  
**Chair of Governors**



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