



# Edenham C. of E. Primary School

Edenham, Bourne, Lincs. PE10 0LP - Charity Number 1045748

Headteacher Mrs Kris Radford-Rea

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Healthy School



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

## Proposal to Convert to Academy and Consultation

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body of Edenham Church of England (VC) Primary School to inform you of our decision to go to Consultation over our school becoming an Academy as part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT).

After reviewing the options available to our school and with the academy agenda now a reality for all schools, Governors believe that they have chosen the best course of action.

We are very keen to hear the views of all stakeholders and friends of Edenham Church of England Primary School, regarding this important decision.

The reasons for us choosing to take this action at this time are:

- It is most likely that all schools will have to become academies. We feel that it is important that we choose the best path for us, rather than waiting and having to accept where we are placed.
- Even if the political path alters and the commitment to all schools by the government becoming academies is 'watered down', the significant financial and structural changes to the services we can access through the local authority mean it will be and has been, increasingly difficult for us to continue as we are.
- This reduction in services has included services vital to what we believe are crucial to the effective running of our school, including services in support of Special Educational Needs, Young Peoples' Mental Health Care and Pastoral support. Becoming an academy will not automatically solve these problems, but converting as part of a larger academy chain would allow us to directly influence spending across the group, brokering services we need or targeting support across a number of schools.
- To be part of a larger group of academies with shared vision and values, putting children first, whilst retaining the unique qualities which are so important to the school community.
- As part of LAAT our school will keep its identity – the name, uniform and way we plan our curriculum will remain unchanged.
- To have access to the range of services which membership of the LAAT brings – eg Payroll, Legal, Financial, HR, School Improvement. This will allow our Senior Leaders and staff more time to concentrate on ensuring the delivery of a wonderful education to our children, rather than running a company.
- To continue to provide staff with great access to training and development opportunities which will help us to keep strong staff for longer, and to widen local opportunities for sharing great practice and professional development for our team.

Our website will provide information for parents and carers as well as other interested parties – I will ensure that this information goes live as soon as possible next week and will notify you by Parentmail when it does.

The Governors and I are determined that before such a significant step is taken, every interested party should have a proper opportunity to let their views be known. You are welcome to contact me in school with questions or to express your views about this process at any time during this consultation.

We have also arranged a drop-in meeting on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 9:00 am** in the school hall. It will continue for approximately an hour.

I will also provide, during the course of next week, an electronic form for you to complete with your response, questions or comments via Parentmail. Please do contact me directly if you have trouble with

this form, or email me directly with any related questions, comments or views at [governors@edenham.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:governors@edenham.lincs.sch.uk) .

The Governors of our school are determined to maintain an excellent education for our children. The current climate is extremely challenging for schools, particularly when they – like we do – wish to maintain a distinct character with a broad and rich curriculum for all its pupils. We firmly believe Academy status as part of the LAAT is a major step along the way.

The Governing Body will meet on Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 to consider all responses to consultation and vote on a final decision.

We welcome your responses and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Mrs Kris Radford-Rea