

Headteacher: Mrs C Duncan
Tel No 0151 678 8070



Chapelhill Road
Moreton
CH46 9QQ

29th November 2024

Dear Stakeholder,

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ACADEMY CONVERSION

Following many months of research, the governors at **Orrets Meadow School** are seeking to become an academy with **Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust**. You can find out information about the trust at www.oaktreesmat.co.uk. We believe this would benefit our pupils and staff enormously.

As part of the process we have a duty to consult with key stakeholders and the information enclosed within this letter is the beginning of that process.

RATIONALE

The current educational climate is changing and many schools nationally are choosing to take advantage of academy status. Many schools wish to make the move now to determine their own destiny and to make the changes when it is right for their own school.

As a consequence of the national picture and continued debate and growth of academies in England, after careful consideration, the school's governing body wishes to explore converting to an academy and, in particular, joining Oak Trees MAT; our application for academy status has been submitted. We now wish to consult with staff, parents and our local community to help determine whether the school should proceed with the conversion and we would like to invite your views on the matter.

The governors are keen that our school has full control of when and how we go forward, without pressure from Government departments.

THE PROPOSAL

The governing body at Orrets Meadow School believes that the best plan for the school is to become an academy and join Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust.

The Trust was established in June 2017; the existing academies in the trust to date are Poulton Lancelyn Primary School, Egremont Primary School, Stanton Road Primary School, Great Meols Primary School; Church Drive Primary School, Brackenwood Junior School, Greasby Junior School, Thingwall Primary School, Heswall Primary School, Irby Primary School, Black Horse Hill Junior School, and Hilbre High School which transferred on 1st May 2024, bringing the total number of schools in the trust to twelve.



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The Trust has received significant interest from other schools across the area who would like to join; demand has been high especially from those schools that are judged to be good or outstanding by OFSTED. Strengthening our partnerships with these schools would have clear benefits for Orrets Meadow School and the additional support available through a trust model would be one of the advantages of becoming an academy.

The proposal is that Orrets Meadow School converts to academy status and joins the trust on 1st September 2025 (subject to DfE approval).

QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Governors are now entering into the consultation phase. They realise that the debate around academies has been prominent in recent times and would like to make sure that the entire school community has an opportunity to ask questions about what academy status means for Orrets Meadow School. The consultation period will run from **29th November 2024 to 20th December 2024**.

The governors (along with the senior leadership team) will be holding a meeting to give you the opportunity to talk about academy status, what it means for the pupils, parents/ carers and staff and to answer any questions that you may have. The meeting will be held at school as follows:

Wednesday 11th December 2024

- Joint Parent/Community meeting 5.15pm – 6.00pm

We enclose a copy of some frequently asked questions, which you may find of interest. Information about the consultation can be found at <https://orrets-meadow.eschools.co.uk/website> under the academy consultation section of the school website. The consultation letter and FAQs will be available on the school website (under the academy consultation section) on 29th November 2024.

In order for us to gather as broad and deep a range of opinions as possible, we strongly urge you to participate by attending the meeting above.

There are many ways you can have your say and ensure your views are heard. This can be by:

- completing an online feedback survey provided on the school website; a link will be made available on the school website on 12 December giving you an opportunity to find out more and read the details we are sharing today.
- emailing any questions and feedback to consultation@orretsmeadow.wirral.sch.uk
- asking questions at our meeting



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Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Orrets Meadow School. We believe that we are a wonderful school and we are committed to ensuring that we provide the very best for our pupils.

The consultation will close at 12pm on 20th December 2024 and the governors will meet in the new year to consider how to proceed.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Carolyn Duncan
Headteacher

Mr Ian Patten
Chair of Governors

