



*Children, Playing, Improving and Smiling*



# Becoming an Academy

Information,  
positives & negatives

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017





# What is an Academy?

- An academy is a state school run by an Academy Trust
- The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education setting out responsibilities and accountabilities
- The academy is funded directly by government (the Education Funding Agency) and is no longer run by the Local Authority
- It would have a 125 year lease of land from Portsmouth City Council



# What is an Academy?

- The academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and not-for-profit
- Because it is publically funded it is subject to judicial review and to the Freedom of Information Act like any other public body
- Currently 21% of primaries and 67% of secondaries are academies or free schools
- 65% of these are in multi-academy trusts (73% of primaries and 52% of secondaries) (source: ASCL)



# Multi-Academy Trust

- A MAT structure allows more than one academy to work together under an academy trust
- A MAT has a small number of members like a single academy trust
- There is a MAT Board of Trustees (sometimes called a Board of Directors, who may also be governors)
- There must be a senior executive leader or Chief Executive Officer who is also chief accounting officer
- Each academy within the MAT usually has its own Local Governing Board



# Benefits of Academies

- Receive funding direct from the government
- Enhanced procurement (increased buying power and economies of scale, sharing costs, staff, finance systems etc)
- Reduction in some costs by pooling some services, expertise and personnel
- Staff employment rights are protected
- Improved financial stability



# Benefits of College Park joining the King's Group Academies MAT

- Consistency between College Park & Lyndhurst
  - Leadership
  - Vision
  - Curriculum
  - Sharing best practice and high expectations
  - Better for families e.g. inset days, charity events, dates
  - Transition from Yr 2 to Yr 3
  - Influencing standards
  - Improved links between staff



# Benefits for College Park joining the King's Group Academies MAT

- Making the decision for ourselves
- Ensuring our pupils have continuity and progression
- Opportunities for staff
- Having an international dimension to our work
- Helping to shape a new and growing MAT
- Doing what we know our families and the local community have wanted for a long time, in aligning College Park and Lyndhurst Junior



# What wouldn't change?

- Our school name
- Our logo and motto
- Our school uniform
- Our school website
- Our staff and governors
- Our high expectations
- Our vision and values
- Our close working relationship with parents and knowing our pupils as individuals





# Negatives

- There is no turning back once the decision is made, academisation is a one-way legal change of status
- A MAT may change over time (ethos, strategic direction, culture etc)
- Need to ensure that the risks of one academy within the MAT not being successful does not affect the others
- One school (academy) within the MAT could try to dominate others



# Negatives

- The MAT could grow too quickly, jeopardising its success
- The MAT may influence its academies from working with other schools and academies
- Government direction and policy about academies may change



# Time scale

- The application process to convert to academy status takes some time (most schools generally convert in around 4 to 6 months)
- There are a number of Portsmouth schools who would be ahead of us in this process
- The earliest proposed date for conversion is probably 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, although there may be the opportunity to build on the joint work already started with Lyndhurst before this point in time



# Considerations

- Please think about
  - What is best for our children and families
  - We do not want to be forced to join a MAT and the Director of Children's Services in Portsmouth has clearly stated that she wants all schools to become academies
  - It is important to us to stay in control of our destiny
  - We want to continue to share and spread our great practice
  
- Let us know if you support this proposal or not any questions you may have.