



28 January 2015

## ACADEMY CONSULTATION FACTSHEET

Your children deserve the very best education. The decision to consult on the academy conversion of West Kingsdown CE Primary School was made by the Governors in January 2014. Academy conversion provides new opportunities to raise standards and to provide new ways to help all children enjoy learning and achieve their best.

The Governors believe that a change in status to being part of the Rochester Diocese Academy Trust will provide the school with new opportunities and increased freedom. The school has already made excellent progress which was recognised by the HMI Inspector when it was taken out of Special Measures. Becoming an academy allows the school to build on that progress in its aim to become an outstanding school.

You can find out more by reading this factsheet or for more detail, you can visit our website [www.west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk](http://www.west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk) You can also find out more about the Rochester Diocesan Multi Academy Trust at [www.rdat.org.uk](http://www.rdat.org.uk)

### **What is an Academy?**

Academies are schools that provide new ways of teaching and learning. They have more freedom and resources. Academies are publicly funded schools, independent from local authority control.

### **When would the school change to become an Academy?**

If the process goes forward, conversion is likely to be complete in the Summer Term 2015.

### **Who would run the Academy?**

The Headteacher would run the school; the Rochester Diocesan Academy Trust would become the legally responsible Governing Body. The Trust would be supported and advised by a Local Governing Body formed by members of the existing Governing Body at the School

### **What are the aims of the new Academy?**

The aims are to:

- Promote educational excellence
- Enhance the teaching and learning of all children
- Maintain the distinctive, caring and supportive Church school ethos and Christian Values serving the needs of children and families within the local community.

The aim is for pupils, staff and the community to continue to feel proud to be part of the school. The Trust would support teachers and staff so they can focus on pupil progress.

### **Would the teaching and learning change?**

No, the new academy will continue to provide rich and varied learning experiences that allow children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential. The academy will

continue to provide a learning climate for children to make good and outstanding progress. The academy trust will support staff in their professional development targeted to ensure that the school continues to improve in the future.

### **Would my child be able to go to the Academy?**

If you are a parent or carer of a pupil at West Kingsdown CE Primary School then your child would continue as normal. The school is open to all members of the community and places are available for children of all abilities from 4-11.

### **What would happen to the staff?**

All staff currently working at West Kingsdown CE Primary School will continue to work at the Academy. Their employment rights will be protected and they will move over to the Trust with exactly the same terms and conditions that they are on now.

### **What happens to my views?**

The views of the local community really matter so it is important you complete the questionnaire. We will pass on your views to the Secretary of State for Education, who will then decide if West Kingsdown CE Primary should go ahead and convert to academy status.

### **How would my child be cared for?**

As a small primary school, staff know each child individually. The school works in partnership with families to maintain a safe and caring environment. Communication will be clear and open at all times.

### **What happens now?**

Before we can open the Academy, it is necessary for the Secretary of State for Education to enter into what are known as “**Academy Arrangements**”.

In this case, ‘Academy Arrangements’ refer to the Funding Agreement. This is the contract between the Secretary of State and the Rochester Diocesan Academy Trust under which the Trust agrees to establish, maintain and run the school and the Secretary of State agrees to provide funding for it.

The Department for Education publishes “Model Funding Agreements”, on its website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/academy-conversion-process#model-funding-agreements>

### **The Governors would like to know what you think**

A consultation questionnaire is available with this factsheet or you can download a copy from our website [www.west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk](http://www.west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk)

You can write to the Academy Sponsor: Alex Tear, Director, Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, St Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester, ME1 1SL

Or you can email questions to [Alex.Tear@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:Alex.Tear@rochester.anglican.org) or [office@west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@west-kingsdown.kent.sch.uk)

If you would like to arrange a meeting, please also email or telephone 01474 853484. If you would like this leaflet in another language or large print, please let us know.

**Please make sure you return your questionnaire by 5pm on Wednesday 4 March 2014.**

*Thank you for taking the time to make sure your views are part of the consultation.*