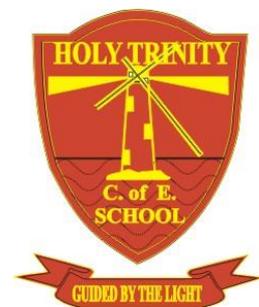


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Learning and caring together, building a firm foundation for the future

Wednesday 6th November 2019

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS

Dear Parents/Carers and members of the local community,

I am writing to describe our proposal for our school to become an academy within the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust, a multi academy trust of Church of England schools in the Dartford and Gravesend area. We would be grateful for your views. More information about what this means for our school and for your children is attached to this letter. Please do let us know what you think about whether our school should become an Academy.

The Governors are choosing to take this step as a positive way forward for our school. Having spoken to the Trust's leaders and explored with them the opportunities that joining Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust will provide, we have concluded that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and thus to your child's achievement. As our vision, ethos and aims align closely with those of Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust this will also support us in continuing to promote the Christian ethos of the school and enrich the learning for all pupils. In addition, being a member of the Trust will enable a wider network of support, funding opportunities and challenge as our school continues to develop, improve and celebrate success.

Whilst we see real benefits in working more closely with the Trust, any changes are likely to be behind the scenes. You and your children will see very little visible difference when we become an academy. The school ethos, name and uniform will not change and we will not change the school's admissions policy. All children and staff will continue to be part of the school as they are now.

Some more information about the Trust and about academy status is attached and we are holding a meeting at **6:30pm on Wednesday 13th November** in the school hall where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the proposal and to ask questions.

If you have any comments or questions on the proposal, or to tell us whether you agree with it please respond online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HolyTrinityG> or complete the form attached and return it to school before the consultation closes on 18 December.

We will inform parents of the outcome via a school letter.



Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust

The Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust is a charitable company responsible for 7 academies: Horton Kirby Church of England Primary School, Rosherville Church of England Academy, St Botolph's Church of England Primary School, Saint George's Church of England School, Shorne Church of England Primary School, and Stone St Mary Church of England Primary School. The Trust will also open the Alkerden Church of England School in Ebbsfleet in September 2021. Each school within the Trust retains its individual character.

The Trust has a Board of Trustees which is accountable to the Secretary of State for the performance of each of those academies, and works closely with governors and senior leaders to support improvement at those schools. Trustees have been appointed on the basis of the skills they bring and to ensure that the Board has a range of skills available. Each academy continues to have its own local governing body which will work with the head teacher and other senior leaders in each school to drive improvements for all our pupils.

Operating within the family of the Diocese of Rochester, Aletheia schools are motivated by Christian values to serve our local communities. Our schools seek to embody the Christian experience of community, where gifts are shared, where the emphasis is on what can be contributed and where each is given according to need. Aletheia schools welcome those of all faiths and none, and are proud of the inclusive nature and diversity of each cohort. At the heart of the Aletheia vision is the belief in educational excellence; the belief that Aletheia is called to serve pupils, staff, parents and the local community by providing places where children and young people develop and thrive intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually.

Aletheia is committed to sustaining high quality schools by providing school improvement services that draw on the wealth of practise from across our trust, broaden the expertise available to schools through flexible working arrangements and increase our capacity to quickly respond to the needs of individual schools. Pedagogical excellence is at the heart of all we do with a sustained focus on collaborative and mastery learning. Our Teacher Training 'Hub' status aids our mission to recruit, train and retain staff of the highest quality within our local community

Belonging to a local Trust offers greater opportunities for influence than single schools can achieve: working together the Trust aims to be greater than the sum of its constituent schools. We see the growth of Aletheia as an opportunity for schools, leaders and governors to step forward as co-shapers of a school led and self- improving system in our area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Academy?

Academies are charitable companies funded by the Government to provide state education free of charge. Multi academy trusts bring together several academies under a single board of trustees, who are accountable for the academies within the Trust. They are funded at the same level as schools maintained by local authorities; and have exactly the same responsibilities for children with special educational needs, pupils in receipt of pupil premium and for admissions.

Why make the change?

Working within the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust we will be able to develop good practice within our school and across the Trust. We will benefit from support from the Trust and other schools – and have the opportunity to share what we do well with others.

When will these changes take place?

The academy conversion process begins with an application to the Secretary of State for Education for an academy order. This is in effect a permission to convert – and confirms that the Secretary of State, through the Regional Schools Commissioner, is happy for us to proceed in this way. Subject to receiving an order, we hope to be able to complete the process of conversion in Spring 2020.

How can I find out more?

We are holding a meeting in school on **13th November at 6:30pm** where we will say a little more about what this proposal means for our school. All parents, carers and members of the local community are welcome to come along to find out more and to ask questions. There is also the opportunity to comment or to ask questions in the form attached or online.

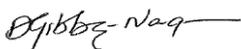
How can I make my views known?

If you have any comments or questions on the proposal, or to tell us whether you agree with it please respond online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HolyTrinityG> or complete the form attached and return it to school.

All comments and questions should be received by **Wednesday 18th December** please.

Many thanks for your continued support as we provide excellent learning opportunities for our children.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. D Gibbs-Naguar
Head Teacher

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Gravesend

Response Form

Thank you for your interest in our school's conversion to academy status within the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust. Having considered the information available, do you agree that the school should go forward in this way?

Agree

Unsure

Disagree

Please add any comments or questions here,

Please continue overleaf and add an extra sheet if necessary

Please indicate your connection to the school

Parent/carer

Staff member

Other : Please specify

.....

Please return this form by date in hard copy to the school in an envelope marked 'Academy Conversion' by 18 December.

You can also complete the form on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HolyTrinityG>