



**Huyton with Roby C.E. Primary School**  
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**Headteacher J Stratford (Mrs)**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents / Staff

Consultation : Academy conversion

The Governing Body have taken the decision to investigate the possibility of Huyton with Roby CE Primary School converting to academy status as a member of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST). As part of the statutory process Governors wish to consult with parents/carers, staff, students and community stakeholders to gather views about conversion and would be very grateful to hear your views.

You will appreciate that the academy agenda has been at the forefront of the Government's education policy for a number of years now. It is the belief of Governors that all schools will be academies within the next few years. The Government's preferred academy model is one where all schools join a Multi- academy Trust, such as the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust.

Governors strongly believe that joining the LDST will secure our school's Christian foundation and ethos which is of paramount importance to both our school and the Diocese of Liverpool. We will remain part of the Church's Family of Schools whilst keeping our local autonomy. Joining the LDST will allow Huyton with Roby school to have a greater say in shaping its own future and ensure we maintain our high standards.

Academies receive the same level of per-pupil funding that they would receive from the local authority as a maintained school, plus additions to cover the services that are no longer provided for them by the local authority. Academies receive their funding directly from the Department for Education rather than from local authorities.

Our school will retain its Governing Body and we do not expect the structure of the group to change significantly as a result of academy conversion. The LDST will have a Board of Directors who have the overall legal responsibility for all schools within its Trust and who will provide support and challenge for our Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. As an Academy, Huyton with Roby would retain the same admission criteria as currently. The school will continue to be a Church of England school and serve the children and families within our community.

## **Why become an Academy?**

The Governors believe that moving to Academy status within the Church of England is the next sensible step in securing lasting school improvement.

We are currently working with a number of trusted partners in bringing about school improvement in key areas. These partners have a range of experience and expertise. Converting to academy status would provide the opportunity for these partnerships to continue, new partnerships to develop and would create additional educational excellence, opportunity and capacity to secure this improvement.

As a Voluntary Aided school, Huyton with Roby has more independence than other maintained schools. As a VA school, the Governors are responsible for 10% of the cost of any capital works undertaken by the school. As an Academy this would no longer be the case, thereby presenting a saving which allows extra resources to be spent on pupils.

## **Continuity**

As an Academy Huyton with Roby will be part of the LDST, a charitable company but the school will remain the same in terms of its name, ethos, vision, values and distinctive Christian character, continuing to work very closely with the Diocese of Liverpool and other trusted partners. There are no plans, for example, to change the school day, uniform, school terms or to change the working terms, conditions and pensions for staff. We want to build on our existing strengths and ensure that we target the budget to continue to improve the educational provision for our school and the local community.

## **What happens next?**

The Governors are interested to hear your views on Huyton with Roby converting to Academy status under the LDST. You may forward your views in writing to Mrs Stratford, Headteacher, marking your envelope "Academy Consultation" or by emailing the school at [huytonwithroby@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:huytonwithroby@knowsley.gov.uk).

The consultation period ends Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Following this the Governing Body will meet again to consider your views and the outcome of the consultation will be published on the school's website. There is more information about Multi academy Trusts and the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust, also on the school website, along with a "Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" paper which you may find helpful.

The Governing Body look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,  
Canon J Stanley

Chair of Governors