



BLABY STOKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Conversion to Academy

January 23rd 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware, Blaby Stokes CE Primary School will shortly be converting to academy status and will join the Learn Academy Trust (Learn-AT).

The provisional date for the conversion is Thursday 1st February 2018.

As part of the preparation for the conversion, Blaby Stokes Parent Forum have been collating possible questions and queries about the implications for the school. Please find on the reverse of this letter a list of Frequently Asked Questions with responses.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

Further information about Learn-AT will be shared once the school has converted to academy status.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr J Cheesman
Acting Head Teacher

FAQs regarding Blaby Stokes' conversion to academy:



Q: Will the school name change?

A: No, there are no plans to change the school name. It will remain 'Blaby Stokes Church of England Primary School'.

Q: Will the school uniform change? (Concern over cost of branded uniform that has to come from certain company so cannot buy from supermarket/department stores)

A: There are no plans to change the school uniform as a result of the academisation. Any past changes in uniform have been implemented through a phased system to ensure existing uniform can still be used during any transition.

Q: Will the term dates change and not match the local authority county school terms?

A: The trust have no imminent plans to change the term dates. Any future changes that may happen would go through a lengthy and thorough consultation period.

Q: Will the KS1 children still get free meals?

A: Yes, all government-funded schools must offer free school meals to every pupil in reception, year 1 and year 2. This includes local-authority-maintained schools and academies.

Q: Will class sizes increase to more than 30?

A: There is always potential for class sizes to exceed 30, regardless of whether they are an academy or a maintained school. Learn-AT complies with statutory infant class size regulations.

Q: Will classes be taught by unqualified teachers?

A: Learn-AT is committed to employing fully qualified teachers. The only exception that has ever (or would ever be made) has been in the case of a graduate trainee teacher who was pursuing a 'Straight to Teaching' route to Qualified Teacher Status. They worked as an unqualified teacher in one of the Trust schools for one year while they completed their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) with an accredited ITT provider, supported throughout by a qualified ITT mentor in the school. They achieved their qualification at the end of that year's course and is now employed as a fully qualified teacher. Similarly, ITT students following other routes to QTS teach in our schools, such as PGCE or SCITT and School Direct, are supported by trained ITT mentors, and teach in our schools as part of their training.

Q: Will the school have less funding than if the funding came from the local authority - think this was with reference to % that the trust takes?

A: No. Schools maintained by the local authority have a percentage of their funding withheld to provide a range of central services. The 5% school contribution to the trust provides for a similar range of services. It also supports the Trust's capacity to work on behalf of schools to make further savings, for example through joint procurement and sharing some services like IT and financial systems – so that more money can be directed to teaching and learning.

Q: Will the school intake increase with more classes in a year group?

A: As new housing developments are built in Blaby and the surrounding areas, there is always the potential for future growth in the size of the school. Again, this would be the case whether or not the school is an academy.

Q: Will Stokes have its own head teacher, rather than an executive head that over sees several schools?

A: The Trust has no plans to change the school's senior leadership arrangements.