



# Goldenhill Primary School



Head teacher: Mr. S Martin BA (Hons).NPQH

*"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"*

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Dear Parents/Carers

Date: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## ACADEMY CONVERSION / MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Goldenhill Primary is currently a Local Authority Maintained school. Approximately a year ago the Governing Body started to think about the benefits of conversion to Academy status and began to consult with key stakeholders.

We now believe that not only is it the right time to convert the school's status, it is indeed necessary in order to safeguard the identity and ethos of the school. Due to the political agenda that all schools will become an academy we feel that we need to take action now in order to allow us to be in control of the future of the school.

As an Academy our funding would change slightly as it would come directly from the DfE rather than the Local Authority. We would join over 5000 other schools that have successfully converted and be in a better position to manage the school in the way we want and the way we need to in order to continue providing a nurture based education with the absolute best value-added learning experiences possible. Equally as important to consider is the real risk of not converting and being ultimately forced to join another Academy chain or Multi Academy Trust (MAT); one who more than likely does not share our values and ethos. The only way Goldenhill Primary School is currently able to convert is to join a MAT of our choosing.

After a process supported by the Local Authority in which several existing Multi Academy Trusts were suggested by the LA and visited and interviewed by the Governing Body we have decided that the best available MAT for Goldenhill Primary to join is the 'Societas Trust'. Goldenhill Primary School would be joining this MAT as **an equal partner** to:

- Ashgreen Primary School
- Ellison Primary School
- Gladstone Primary School
- Summerbank Primary School
- Sutherland Primary Academy

Goldenhill Primary is committed to this particular partnership because of the way the Societas Trust is structured. Leaders and Governors at Goldenhill Primary have always strongly held and share the view that our school must retain our own unique identity as Goldenhill Primary within any partnership we belong to. At the heart of the Societas Trust structure is the key driver that all schools are equal partners.

- Each school retains its own unique identity.
- Each school retains its own governing board



- Each school retains autonomy on how the individual school's money is spent for its own children
- Each school retains autonomy over its curriculum
- Each school retains its own leadership ( no executive head/ lead school)
- All schools working collaboratively, not competitively.

The Heads at these schools have worked together over a number of years and therefore our collaborative activities to support Teaching and Learning have developed to the point where all schools wish to formalise our successful partnership. All six of the schools have appreciated the benefits of collaborative working over a number of years. We have also come to further appreciate the possibilities of formalising the partnership we currently have and of the potential future benefits that our partnership will bring. The benefits identified have already been well documented by our group and they include:

- Valuable opportunities to develop collaborative learning opportunities for the children in our schools
- Improved standards for children for all schools within the partnership;
- Operational efficiencies through economies of scale as a group of six schools
- Additional continuing professional development opportunities;
- Strengthened relationships between communities that cover a diverse geographical, socio-economic, ethnic and cultural region; further embedding a celebration of diversity and mutual respect.

Part of the Academy conversion process is for us to consult with you as parents. We want to hear your suggestions and opinions. Please visit the school's website at <http://www.goldenhill.stoke.sch.uk/default.asp> and go to the parents section and under the '**academy conversion**' tab where you'll find an Academy Conversion Consultation paper and a Frequently Asked Questions document. Please can I ask you to read these and, if you want to comment write to the school marked 'Academy Consultation' or email [academy@goldenhillprimary.org.uk](mailto:academy@goldenhillprimary.org.uk) as soon as possible, consultation closes at 12pm 19/2/16. If you'd like a hard copy of these two documents please call in at the school office and copies will be printed for you.

In order to continue to ensure that Goldenhill Primary School continues with its current ethos and is able to remain as a community school for all our children both now and in the future, I firmly believe that conversion to Academy status as part of a Multi Academy Trust represents the best course of action for our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Steven Martin

Head Teacher



