

Academy Status: Parent Briefing Note

What is an Academy School?

1. Academy status removes the school from local authority control, the school becomes a publicly funded independent state school.
2. It gives the school, governing body and trustees more responsibility for teaching, staffing and budgets.
3. It gives the school funding direct from the Government and the opportunity to buy in services from a range of providers with the prospect of gaining greater value from our suppliers.
4. It gives freedom from following the National Curriculum.
5. It gives the ability to change the length of terms and dates.
6. The school does not have to change its name or uniform.
7. It gives the ability to set our own pay and conditions to attract and retain the best possible staff for the school.
8. The Academy becomes its own admissions authority.

Further information for parents is available on the government's DFE website.

Who are the members of Ironstone Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

The schools within the MAT are: Normanby Primary, Nunthorpe Primary Academy, Ormesby Primary and Zetland Primary

Why we are seeking to join an expanded Trust?

1. We believe that it has the potential to accelerate the schools development.
2. All of the above schools are good schools who share common beliefs, expectations and principles and are fully committed to achieving the highest quality of education for all.
3. Our school has worked closely with these schools in the past to help share good practice.
4. In a Multi Academy structure all member schools are mutually responsible for the quality of educational provision to gain the best outcomes for all in their community of schools.

5. The schools will receive their share of the central funding that the Local Authority receives and spends on our behalf. We believe that the ability to target funding more accurately at school level will bring further benefits to students and their learning.
6. The Trust will have considerable freedom to set its own curriculum. Nevertheless, the curriculum will remain balanced and broadly based while providing continuity and progression for all students.
7. The schools will cease to be maintained by and under Local Authority control. However, we remain committed to collaborating with other schools and organisations, both locally and nationally.

NB. Whilst we will obtain advantages from our independence from the Local Authority control we will retain strong links and have a continued working relationship with Redcar and Cleveland Council.

WHAT WON'T CHANGE WHEN RIVERDALE CONVERTS?

- Parents and children will see very little change.
- The colour and logo on our uniform.
- Riverdale Primary will remain accountable to its families, pupils, Governors, OFSTED and Department for Education.
- Riverdale Primary will remain part of the family of local schools working together.
- Admissions procedures.
- School staff.
- Staff pay and conditions.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

- We will receive all funding directly.
- Staff will work closely, on activities supporting improved outcomes for our children.
- We will be able to shop around and get best value for all of the services we access.
- Administration procedures will be more streamlined.
- All licenses, insurance etc will have Trust oversight.

Kirsty Reilly

Head Teacher