25th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ACADEMY CONVERSION**

Following many months of research, the Governors at Tarporley CofE Primary School have taken a decision to consider applying for academy status and joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT).

In considering applying for academy status, school leaders and governors have looked at the range of academy trust options available to us, and believe that CDAT would be the best choice for our school. We strongly believe this will bring enormous benefits for our pupils and our staff.

**RATIONALE**

The current educational climate is changing, and many schools nationally are choosing to take advantage of academy status. Changes to the way funding is distributed have also meant that local authorities now have less capacity to support schools, and so more and more schools are looking to academy trusts to provide their school improvement support. We feel that this is very much the case locally.

As a consequence of the national and local picture and continued debate and growth of academies in England, the Governors have spent some time looking more closely into whether becoming an academy would be in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff here at Tarporley CofE Primary School. Governors consider that joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) will be a positive step for the school.

**THE PROPOSAL**

**The Governing Body at Tarporley CofE Primary School believes that the best plan for the school is to become an academy and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT).**

The Diocese already work closely with our school and have provided high-quality support in areas such as governance, school ethos etc. Becoming an academy would give us increased access to this support from a trusted partner. As part of the CDAT family of schools, we would have access to the Trust’s school improvement support and expertise. The Trust has a strong track record in working with schools to help them improve.

We expect that, if we do confirm our decision for Tarporley CofE Primary School to convert to academy status and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT), that the formal application and conversion process will take around 12 months.

**QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

Governors are now entering into the consultation phase. We want to make sure that the entire school community has had an opportunity to ask questions about what academy status means for Tarporley CofE Primary School. The consultation period will run from Monday 25th March to Friday 3rd May.

We are therefore holding a meeting whereby we would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about academy status. One of CDAT’s senior leadership team will also be at the meeting to tell you a little more about the trust and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the school as follows:

Date of Meeting Wednesday 24th April

* Staff Meeting                 3.00pm – 4.00pm and 4.00pm - 5.00pm
* Parent/Carer meeting    5.30pm - 6.30pm

We have included a feedback form with this letter - we would be grateful if you could submit this to us by **4.00pm on Friday 26th April** with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. There will be a box in the school office for returned forms, which will be kept anonymous. You can also email the school with your feedback – please use the email address admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk and put ‘Consultation’ in the subject line.

If you would like to know more about CDAT, please look at the trust’s website: [www.cdat.co.uk](http://www.cdat.co.uk); prior to the consultation meeting we will be uploading a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ document to our website which you may find of interest. We will use the website, as well as reminders in newsletters, to keep you up to date with the consultation process.

Website link: [www.tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk/page/academy-consultation](http://www.tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk/page/academy-consultation)

If you are unable to attend this session, but would like further information or would like to respond to our consultation, you can contact the school in the following ways:

• Telephone: 01829708188

• Email: admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Tarporley CofE Primary School. We believe that we have a truly wonderful school here and we are committed to ensuring we provide the very best for our school family.

Yours sincerely,

 

Kerry Forrester Headteacher Chris Fry Chair of Governors

**Tarporley CofE Primary School Feedback Form**

**Q1. Please confirm the status that best describes you: (Please select one)**

**☐** A member of school staff

**☐** A pupil at the school

**☐** A parent or carer of a pupil

**☐** A member of the community

**☐** A school governor

**☐** Other (Please specify)

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**Q2. Do you support the governors’ proposal that Tarporley CofE Primary School should convert to academy status and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT)?** (Please select one)

**☐** Yes

**☐** No

**☐** Don’t know

**Q3. Any other comments or questions?** (Please write in)

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**Thank you for your comments!**

**Please return this form to the ‘Feedback Form Box’ in the school office, or as an email attachment to** **admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk** **by**  **4.00pm on Friday 26th April.**