



Meadow View Primary School

December 2018

Parent Consultation to academise with JMAT (James Montgomery Academy Trust)

Thank you to the parents who came to the Academy Consultation meeting on Wednesday 14th November. Here are the questions asked by the parents in attendance and also questions given to the office from parents who could not attend;

Q1. Academies do not have to follow the same 'rules' as state school and do not have to follow the National Curriculum. Are there plans to change the curriculum? **A:** There are no plans to change the curriculum. All JMAT schools use the National Curriculum to plan their curriculum.

Q2. Gov.uk state that Academies can set their own term times. To promote positive changes would it be possible to alter term times slightly? This would reduce holiday costs for families, including teachers, and improve attendance records. **A:** Whilst this sounds a great idea, some families have children in more than one school e.g. older ones at Winterhill or siblings at Special schools. Changing the holiday structure would therefore have huge impact on families. This would also impact teachers as those staff with children, their children attend schools where they live and their children would not be on holiday (but thank you for thinking about staff too!).

Q3. Following on from the above, would there be any alteration to school start and end times? **A:** The academy is not proposing any changes. If changes did occur this would be from the school. Parent Council have discussed staggering the end of the day and we will be consulting parents on this in the near future.

Q4. Would the school premises need to be changed as the Local Authority own the current building? **A:** Meadow View School was built with Private Finance initiative (PFI) monies and therefore the Local Authority does not own the buildings. The Local Authority are in a funding agreement with the Private Finance (PFI) company. This agreement will be taken over by the Academy. The school premises will not change.

Q5. Will the staff stay the same? Will the Management structure stay the same? With it being a Multi Academy trust would each school still have an independent head teacher? **A:** The Academy have no plans to change the staffing or management structure any more than a normal school year would bring with class sizes, staff leaving etc. Each JMAT school has its own Head Teacher and there are no plans to change this at any of the schools including Meadow View.

Q6. Will the name change to Meadow View Academy? **A:** No. Meadow View Primary will still be the name of our school but we will be an Academy rather than a State school.

Q7. Will there be a new uniform? **A:** We have no plans to change the uniform and all other JMAT schools have retained their original uniform. There will be no additional costs to parents.

Q8. As a school will we still be in control of our school budget? **A:** Yes. We will maintain our own budget with Financial Advisors from the Trust.

In summary, parents and children should see no changes at Meadow View Primary. However, being part of the MAT can help us save money, provide additional support for the school to improve further and provide additional opportunities for our children.