

Questions to consider

LA presentation to Round Hill Governors

1. Do we want to change?
 - What is already working well in the collaboration – are we seeing the benefits of this way of working?
 - What could we improve?
 - How do we want to change?
2. If we want to academise – what type of MAT do we want to join?
 - Established MAT/new emerging MAT/primary MAT/secondary lead MAT?
3. What will we get from a MAT that we do not get from the LA and collaboration?
 - How will our pupils achieve/ gain more/ benefit from this conversion?
 - How will changing improve the education of our pupils?
4. If we are going to join a MAT what questions should we be considering?
 - Size of MAT/direction/strategic vision and ethos
 - Governance arrangements:
 - How will the Trust Board be formed and what is the membership of the board ?
 - Will each school have representation on the Trust Board?
 - Delegation of responsibility – do we still appoint our own staff /Head Teacher?
 - Does each school within the MAT have the same delegation of responsibility?
 - Would we set our own LGB agenda or is this set by the MAT Trust Board?
 - Top slice – what is it? What exactly do we get for that money?
 - Who manages the budget?
 - Does the MAT move key staff around? How would staff benefit from the MAT?
 - Will we still have choice about who provides our services? HR contracts/ grievance support/HR appeals/clerking(including complaints) support/finance support/school improvement support
 - What happens if there is a particularly difficult issue eg admissions, parental complaints, multi-union negotiation? How will the MAT support the school with this?
 - The GB must undertake Due Diligence – is the MAT financially viable?
 - Does the MAT have a track record of school improvement?
 - What would be the liabilities of our school if there was a financial/legal problem within the MAT

- What if we don't 'fit in' - can we leave?

Questions from Finance Adviser for Roundhill Primary

Questions to ask when considering the conversion process:

1. What is the prime driver for the Trust to take on Primary Schools?
2. How will conversion benefit the pupils of Round Hill Primary?
3. Would the Primary Function be run separately to the Secondary Function?
4. Would there be any plans to change the school day times / school holidays?
5. How would staff benefit? Could they be re-deployed within the Trust?
6. Are there any plans for any type of pay restructure?
7. What are the terms for teaching assistants, are newly recruited TA's paid on a term time only basis?
8. Are there any plans to centralise Finance / HR departments?
9. Who does the Trust use for the Payroll Service, have they moved away from the LA?
10. Would Round Hill lose autonomy over decisions?
11. How would Governance change?
12. Would funds generated by Round Hill (Roundabout/RHA) be retained for Round Hill projects?
13. How much would the top slice be (%) and what services would this provide?
14. How successful has the Trust been in winning capital bids?
15. How many Primary Schools would you ideally like to join the Trust?