

ROUND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND JOIN
EQUALS TRUST
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Please read in conjunction with the Consultation Document – March 2023 [available here](#).

Q1: What is an Academy?

A1: An Academy is a state-funded school that is run by an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the Academy. The Academy is funded directly by the Government and not through the Local Authority.

Q2: What are multi academy trusts?

A2: Multi Academy trusts are charities that have responsibility for running a number of academies. They cannot, as charities, be run for financial profit and any surplus must be reinvested in the trust. By working in partnership with each other, the schools within a trust can share staff, curriculum expertise and effective teaching practices, and work together to deliver the best outcomes for pupils. While other types of school partnerships can be effective, the key difference with academy trusts is that there is shared accountability for standards across the trust; all schools within the trust support each other and the trust is accountable for them all.

Q3: Why are we making the move to Academy status?

A3: As noted within the supporting consultation document, Round Hill Primary School's governing body has considered very carefully the best future strategy for our school. Like all schools in England, we are dealing with several challenges:

Sustaining and raising school performance and pupil outcomes

Schools face much greater external scrutiny of their performance and pupil outcomes. This places increased pressure on Head teachers, teachers and teaching staff. In the past Nottinghamshire County Council has provided excellent support for its schools, but, through no fault of its own, it now has less funding and resources, which it must target at the weakest schools. This means we receive much less support for school improvement.

Retaining the best staff team

At the heart of every good school is a strong team of leaders, teachers, teaching staff and support staff who work together to help and develop every child, so they flourish. As a school, we receive a diminishing amount of Local Authority support and the opportunities for professional development, career progression and mutual support and challenge are reduced. We need to retain, develop, and recruit the very best staff team to achieve the best outcomes for the children. We also need to help staff achieve a better work/life balance.

Coping with financial pressures

We know that the children, staff, parents and carers view Round Hill Primary School as a school where children, staff and parents/carers are part of a community that cares for and supports each other.

However, pupil funding is not keeping up with the range of cost increases, which means each year we have to find more savings from an ever-tighter budget. We are concerned that these cutbacks will strip back the breadth of learning beyond the core curriculum that we can offer our pupils.

Q4: What is the timeframe for consultation with stakeholders?

A4: The consultation period will run between 1st March 2023 and 26th April 2023.

Q5: How can I provide feedback and ask questions during the consultation period to ensure my views are considered?

A5: Round Hill Primary School has set up a dedicated consultation@roundhill.notts.sch.uk mailbox for stakeholders to provide any feedback or ask questions on the Proposal. This will be monitored and where themes arise, further FAQs will be added to this document to share with others.

Meetings have also been arranged on Tuesday 21st March at various times and you will have received notification and information on how to attend via letter. For a copy of this letter please visit our website <https://www.roundhill.notts.sch.uk/newsletters>

Finally, a dedicated page on our website has been uploaded to provide further guidance throughout the consultation process and can be [accessed here](#).

Q6: Will the school name or uniform change?

A6: There will be no change to the school name or uniform as a result of converting to Academy status.

Q7: Will there be any change to the admissions policy?

A7: We intend to keep with the current arrangements which are determined by Statutory Admissions Code and Admission Appeals Code.

Q8: Will the term dates change?

A8: All schools have the ability to set their own term dates. There is no intention to alter the current arrangements for Round Hill Primary School as a result of converting to Academy status.

Q9: Will a parent's right to complain be affected?

A9: No. If Academy conversion takes place there will be, as there is now, a complaints policy which sets out how parents can make a complaint.

Q10: When will the conversion take place?

A10: The plan is for the school to convert during the summer/autumn term 2023 or as soon as is practical.

Q11: How is proposal to join the Equals Academy Trust different to the proposal to join the White Hills Park (WHP) Trust 2018?

A11: In 2018 the WHP Trust was still new and expanding. Round Hill would have been the only primary school in the Trust at that time which was made up of 2 secondary schools. The proposal to join the Equals Trust is different because Round Hill would be joining a well-established purely primary school based Trust – placing primary related issues at the heart of what they do. In addition, Equals Trust already has a long established primary training network of good and outstanding schools which will better suit the future development needs of our staff which will ultimately benefit our pupils.