

To the Chair of Governors,

I am writing to express my deep concerns at the current proposal to academise Roundhill Primary School. To clarify my stance in advance, I am against this course of action and I have other objections to voice over the handling of this whole scenario:

It has come to my attention that the Governors will be meeting on the 12th of February to vote upon whether or not to proceed with joining White Hills Park MAT.

Why am I hearing this, in the first case, as a rumour rather than a clear communication from the school? It would seem that discussions of this matter are very far progressed and it is shocking to note that there has been no mention of it to parents whose children started this year. I am aware of subsequent communications from the school, minutes from meetings, parent forums etc. But it is clear that this has been a plan in the pipeline for some months.

I would like to make clear, that had I known about this I would have thought twice about having my child attend Roundhill. I don't say that flippantly.

The school's values and ethos embody transparency and working in partnership with the parents of the children you educate, if I understand them correctly. If this is the case, how am I to take seriously anything the school puts forward as self regulation, guidance and values in the future? This is a savaging of your own principles.

My objection to academisation is the lack of accountability and regulation from a greater authority who would check any departure from these rules in the future. It also concerns me deeply that you would no longer be bound by the base level of at least a national curriculum by which to measure an adequate education for my child. Though I will freely admit that this also gives you the latitude to improve your curriculum beyond measure.

The most deeply troubling aspect of academisation is the entity of the Trust, which is vulnerable in the extreme to private interests. If the Trust chooses to be opaque on this front, I have no way of knowing whose interests the school is serving and no one to turn to for recourse on this. At least the government exists to serve the greater good and the general public. Private interests are *private interests*.

In researching both sides of this argument I have unfortunately come across a considerable number of nightmarish examples of trusts flagrantly abusing their autonomy and government funding to serve these private interests. You should be aware of the potential predicament that you are walking into.

In addition to hearing my objections, I hope you will be willing to answer some questions:

Why does Roundhill want to join a trust?

Why is Roundhill considering this as an option *now*?
Will you be consulting with parents before you decide?
If not, why not?

I hope that you will consider my objections seriously and take the time to address not just my questions but the questions and objections of the parents of every child that you care for when they are in your school, before voting on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

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