

Round Hill Primary School Stakeholder Consultation Meeting Feedback/Questions raised

These questions were raised at the Two Consultation Meetings with parents on 21 st March 2023	
Question raised	Response
Why now, why Equals?	<p>As detailed in our consultation documentation, schools now face much greater external scrutiny of their performance and pupil outcomes. This places increased pressure on Headteachers, 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. We feel that by joining the Equals Trust we are better equipped to cope with financial pressures and will be better placed to retain the best staff.</p> <p>Equals Trust is our preferred partner for two key reasons. First, the vision and values of Equals Trust align very well with those of Round Hill and second, as a large primary-only multi academy trust, we feel it can offer relevant expertise, support and resources to our school.</p>
What happens if we do nothing?	<p>Successful, sustainable schools will not be forced to join up in a trust with other schools. As it happens, many academy schools have chosen to join a trust because they can see the benefits. For Round Hill and for the reasons outlined above, it is important to consider how it can continue to best serve its pupils and wider community.</p>
How does Round Hill Primary fit into the demographic of existing schools within the Trust?	<p>The Equals Trust is a local partnership of Nottinghamshire primary schools and Round Hill would be the fourteenth member school, should we finally decide to join.</p>
Will the school retain its own SENDCo?	<p>There will be no change to the existing SENDCo provision as a direct result of converting to academy status and joining the Equals Trust.</p>
What happens if there is a change in government?	<p>Governments continuously reform to be more effective, efficient, open and responsive to policy challenges and it is not uncommon for there to be changes in policy when there is a change in government. In respect of this consultation, what is important is that Round Hill bases any decision regarding the proposal on what it feels is right for the school and its pupils now and in the future.</p>
You were wrong before, how do you know you aren't wrong this time?	<p>Any change proposal requires robust scrutiny and Round Hill take a diligent approach to assessing the right 'fit' in seeking to join a multi academy trust. 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</p>

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	<p>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.</p>
<p>Why weren't governors at the meeting and is the decision final?</p>	<p>The Governing Body of Round Hill is made up of the headteacher, parents, staff, co-opted and one local authority appointee, who work together to support and monitor the life of school. The Chair, Vice-chair and some parent governors did attend the meetings along with the staff governor as representatives of the whole governing body.</p> <p>The school's Governing Body passed a resolution to apply to convert to academy status in support of this proposal and any final decision will take account of a number of factors including feedback from stakeholders.</p>
<p>Why aren't more parents at the meeting?</p>	<p>We wrote to all parents/carers on 28 February setting out the proposal for Round Hill Primary to join Equals Trust and convert to academy status. This letter set out the rationale for the proposal and also how to access information available on our website and how to feedback via the dedicated mailbox set up to support this consultation. Some parent's have chosen to communicate and feedback outside of the formal meetings that were set up and took place in March.</p>
<p>Is it a foregone conclusion that all schools join a Trust?</p>	<p>The Schools White Paper sets out the Government's aspiration that all state schools become academies ("a fully trust led system") and that they be in or joining a strong trust by 2030. While the Schools Bill that included powers intended to help facilitate this process was aborted, the sector is still moving in this direction.</p>