

Dear Chair, Mr Nash and school office,

Please find below an email signed by 63 Round Hill parents for consideration at your governors meeting on 12th February. We would be very grateful if the school office could please print copies of this email and ensure each governor has a copy at your meeting.

It would be appreciated if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

With our sincere thanks

Dear Round Hill Governors

We understand from the recent letter to parents that you are meeting this evening to make a decision on whether or not to register an interest in becoming an academy with the DfE, which could potentially lead to Round Hill both becoming an academy and joining the White Hills Park Multi-Academy Trust (WHP). As parents we do not know what information, both for and against, you will be basing your decision on. We also do not know who will be presenting the case for each of the 2 options at your meeting. As parents, we therefore felt we must write to you and ask you to read this brief letter before you vote.

Firstly, please be assured that we know our governors and the school team have the very best interests of the education of our children in the forefront of their minds. Round Hill is a good school, as judged by Ofsted, but also as judged by us as parents. There are inevitably areas where the school can improve but we know that the school is working on these, and we appreciate that. However, it's a huge concern to us as parents that - at a time when we want our school's leadership and resources to be focussed on those improvements - time, resources and energy might be diverted to the process of consultation and due diligence. It is a concern to us that the energy, enthusiasm and focus that we see in the fantastic teaching and support staff at Round Hill could be diverted to worries about their jobs, pay and conditions. It is a concern to us that this will impact on our children's education.

News about your significant vote tonight only reached parents in the last few days. Since then there have been many discussions between parents, in groups, in one to one playground chats and online. There are many with strong views, and many others who have not yet even had time to even consider their point of view. The one common question that seems to appear in every parent conversation is simply - why?

Why would a good school like Round Hill, who had no plans (to our knowledge) to consider academisation, suddenly be considering not only becoming an academy but also joining a MAT?

Why, when only 27% of primary schools have become academies, would Round Hill suddenly be considering it?

Why, when there is no compulsion for good schools to become academies or join MATs, would Round Hill suddenly be considering it?

Why, when we know that WHP have approached several local primary schools who have all said no, would Round Hill be considering joining them?

We very much appreciate that, in the letter dated 6th February, governors have confirmed any positive vote tonight would not commence the due diligence and 'formal' consultation stage of the process, but that the governors would enter a phase of "meaningful dialogue"

which would take place before a second vote of governors. We would argue that this "meaningful dialogue" should take place **before** governors make the significant decision to register an interest with the DfE. We want to talk. We want to hear all sides of the debate and we are concerned that you are making a key decision this evening without that dialogue having been initiated.

We therefore ask that you pause, taking a vote tonight only on whether to enter into meaningful dialogue - not on the significant step of registering an interest. This would give the opportunity for governors, teachers, parents, stakeholders and the children to come together, hear all sides of the debate, understand why governors think the education of our children would be improved within a MAT, and why these improvements cannot be delivered within the current school structure. As parents, we want to work with the governing body.

We could provide you with an endless list of questions, of opinions about the pro's and con's of academies, of questions and concerns about WHP. However, with so little time, information or communication with parents, at this stage our request is that the process be paused and that you talk to us, before you take a first formal step in registering an interest in becoming an academy.

Given the little time given to us between your letter of the 6th and your meeting tonight, we represent only a very small proportion of Round Hill parents. We, like you, would like to be part of a far larger meaningful dialogue about this issue. There is no need for governors to take the step of registering an interest with the DfE for this dialogue to happen.

Thank you for listening.





