



SHOULD RATTON SCHOOL BECOME AN ACADEMY - SUMMARY

The Department for Education (DfE) has offered schools in England and Wales the opportunity to join the new academies programme. It says that becoming an academy would "give schools the freedoms and flexibilities to continue to drive up standards". As a school judged to be good with outstanding features in its most recent OfSTED Inspection (May 2010), Ratton can make an application to the DfE to become an Academy.

Having carefully considered the issues, the Governing Body and Trust Partners believe that becoming an academy may now be in the best interests of the school, its children and the local community. This does not mean that we have decided to convert but that we wish to seek the views of all our community to inform our final decision.

The key issues considered by Governors:

- The ability for the school to better control its own destiny, maintaining and enhancing the key values and integrity of Ratton School
- The enhancing of the benefits already being seen from the change to Trust Status by including the Trust Partners into the structure of the Academy
- To be able to extend and improve community links so as to enable those young people not at Ratton School to also benefit from facilities and programmes which could enhance their life chances
- The opportunity to gain a substantial amount of additional funding direct from the DfE with full financial control of the day-to-day running of the school enabling greater flexibility of how the school purchases the services it needs
- Have more control to develop a dynamic curriculum so as to meet the changing needs of our students over the coming years
- The ability to better manage the school estate (plan building upgrades etc.), with the possibility of future capital grants
- To ensure that SEN funding, facilities and provisions will remain unchanged
- That term dates will continue to follow those of other local schools
- That the admission criteria will remain unchanged
- That there are no plans to change national pay and conditions for all school staff

Governors wish to start consulting over whether to become an academy school or not; therefore, they need to know what you think.

So that you can find out more about the academies programme, the reasons why the Governing Body are considering a change in status and some of the common concerns about academies, governors have developed a Consultation Document. We hope it will help you to formulate your own view on this important issue.

Peter Lindsey
Chair of Governors

Laurence Smith
Chair of the Ratton Trust

6th January 2012