



Small School, Big Heart

Selattyn C. of E. Primary School

Governing Body

Head Teacher: Mr R.E. Shepherd

Glyn Road
Selattyn
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY10 7DH

Tel: 01691 659744
www.selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk
admin@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk
head@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk

24th April 2024

Moving to an Academy Trust

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, it is the Government's intention that all maintained schools in England will join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030.

To secure the future of our school, we have looked for a MAT that preserves our distinctive Christian family ethos and core values. It is important to Governors that we proactively choose the best fit so that Selattyn C.E. Primary School thrives for future generations.

Selattyn C.E Primary School Governors investigated Trusts that were recommended to us as a Church School by the Diocese of Lichfield. After extensive fact finding, meetings with Trusts and other local primary schools of similar size and ethos, we have decided to explore joining the Marches Academy Trust, subject to further due diligence and stakeholder consultation.

We believe that joining the Marches Academy Trust family of schools offers us:

- Excellence in our curriculum through shared resources and expertise across multiple schools within the trust
- Increased enrichment opportunities for our children
- Long term stability for the school and financial security
- A local partnership which enables useful collaboration including efficient and effective administration.
- Improved management of operations, facilities and buildings.

Marches Academy Trust values the individual character of each school within their family and have Diocesan representation at the highest level. This will enable us to maintain the unique character, culture and ethos of our school.

Further information about what transferring to a multi-academy trust means, and how to comment on the proposals, is set out below.

What is an academy?

An academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the local authority and receives its funding direct from central government. It is proposed that Selattyn CE Primary School will transfer to become part of The Marches Academy Trust. This means that the school will be part of an academy group, to which other schools may join in the future.

Will Selattyn CE Primary School definitely become an Academy?

This proposal would mean the school would join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) providing both parties are happy following due diligence and consultation process.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the Marches Academy Trust before a decision is taken to sign the Funding Agreement. Details on how to provide comments and representations are set out below. The Marches Academy Trust will not sign the Funding Agreement unless they are content that transfer would be in the best interests of the school taking into account all the legal and practical ramifications.

Why The Marches Academy Trust?

Academy chains are not new and there are a number of academy trusts operating across the country, some small and some large. The Marches Academy Trust will provide advice and support to Selattyn CE Primary School.

What are the benefits of being an academy?

In the school's opinion the benefits are numerous:

- Academies are independent of local authority control – this means that academies have more freedom about how they conduct themselves
- Academies receive their funding direct from central government – this means that academies have more autonomy on how their funding is spent in order to directly benefit students
- Academies have more freedom over the curriculum taught – this means that academies do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider appropriate for students
- Academies have more freedom to undertake innovative projects – academies are independent and so have more freedom to undertake innovative projects, such as setting up and utilising trading subsidiaries

Will the admissions arrangements change?

The current admission arrangements will remain in place for the time being. If the academy wanted to change its admission arrangements consultation would be required.

Will I still be able to send my child to a secondary school of my choice?

Nothing will change. You will still have freedom of choice for your child's secondary school. You will still be required to apply to Shropshire Council with your preference of schools as you would currently.

Will there be any changes to staffing?

If the school transfers to a multi-academy, all staff currently employed by the school will automatically transfer to the new academy on their current terms and conditions. Although the academy will have more freedom to amend those terms and conditions in the future, the school does not intend to take such a step in the foreseeable future and, in any event, any change to pay and conditions would need to be consulted upon with staff representatives.

Will Selattyn CE Primary School change?

We do not intend to change Selattyn CE Primary School except in ways which we think will improve the school even more. For students it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day-to-day school lives.

Academies do have the power to vary their curriculums and vary the length of the school day; however, it is not intended to take any such steps at this stage, and we would engage with parents/carers, staff and students if we did ever intend to make such changes in the future.

How can I find out more?

A meeting will be held at the school on **Wednesday 8th May at 5pm**. We would encourage you to attend if you have any questions, or simply want to learn more.

There is also information about academies on the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

If you cannot find the answer to your question on the DfE website, and cannot attend the meeting, please email – ceo@mmat.co.uk

How can I make representations?

The closing date for comments is **Wednesday 22nd May at 6pm.**

Representations can be made by:

Completing the electronic survey <https://forms.office.com/e/gN3ZSDECSr>

Completing a hard copy of the survey (available to download from our website) and returning it to:
Sarah Finch,

CEO, The Marches Academy Trust, Morda Road, Oswestry, SY11 2AR

Or emailing ceo@mmat.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ross Shepherd, Headteacher

On behalf of Selattyn C.E. School Governors



Mrs Nikki Hill, Chair of Governors