

## SOUTHWATER INFANT SCHOOL

### ACADEMY STATUS PARENT QUESTIONS

- Is school going to be part of a wider group of schools converting to Academy Status?

Currently there are 243 schools that have converted to Academy status and according to the DfE there are approx 50 – 100 schools each month for the next 3 months converting. In West Sussex there is one other school.

- Why now? Why not over the last summer or after a couple of years when we will know how successful Academies will be?

We do not feel it is appropriate to wait to see if other schools are successful or not. We are outstanding schools who work in close partnership and feel we have the necessary skills and determination to achieve the very best for all our pupils now and in the future.

- How much planning for the additional responsibilities that fall onto Academies has been carried out by the Governing Bodies?

Over the past seven months the Governing Bodies have explored the responsibilities they will have under Academy status. They are a group of hard working, committed people who have a variety of skills that are used to compliment the school's skill set.

- What does this mean and what will change?

Academy status means the schools will have increased flexibility and autonomy to determine the curriculum, manage admissions, spend and allocate funds normally top sliced by the Local Authority directly on the identified needs of the school. Very little will change – we are converting to ensure we can maintain our outstanding provision for all children, now and in the future.

- Does this mean the school still gets adequate funding?

Yes – our funding will come directly from the DfE.

- Does this cost parents?

No.

- Will the move to Academy status alter the role or number of parent, staff or community representative members on the Governing Body?

No, we are expecting the Governing Body to become the Board of Trustees. We will be seeking additional trustees based on their skills to complement the existing skill set of our Governors.

- Are Minutes of the meeting available to parents? We are both unable to attend due to prior commitments but feel we would like more information on how/if the current provision may be altered.

Yes. The powerpoint presentation to parents held in December is on our school website. This details the key information about conversion to Academy status.