

Southwater Infant School
&
Southwater Junior School
Academy Status
Briefing meeting

Local Authority position

West Sussex 'New Learning Service' has already shared the following 'changes' with us:

- *...a phased withdrawal from discretionary services
(things they don't have to offer but do)
- *...reductions in their management capacity of schools
- *...more 'flexible' frontline service delivery
- *... more 'efficient' support for Localities and Area Partnerships
- *...a phased revision of SEN, OSL and parent services
- *...that there will be on-going 'change' in the future
- *...reductions to the Learning Service budgets – 3.9m

Why are we here?

- * Because we are ‘outstanding’
- * Because we wish to not only maintain our outstanding provision but to continually enhance this in a time of fundamental system change
- * Because we wish to continue to secure the ‘very best’ for our children...our community...our future
- * Because we have a ‘duty’ to ensure we have explored the potential that exists under such a conversion, to protect what we already offer

What are the reasons for converting?

- * Freedom
- * Innovation
- * Flexibility
- * Capacity
- * Community
- * Shared Resources
- * Sponsorship & Income
- * Considerations

FREEDOM

- * ... to develop our curricula to meet the needs of our children; utilising staff strengths and to continue to develop cohesion in, and amongst, our community
- * ... to develop an admissions policy that suits the needs of our community
- * ... to spend our 'full' allocated monies in the best way that suits the needs of our schools
- * ... to recruit the 'best' staff and offer competitive salaries
- * ... to act independently, and without the constraints of local and national political interference
- * ... for professional teaching staff to manage our schools in a complementary way alongside other professional agencies

INNOVATION

- * ...in working in conjunction with local people to enhance our recognition as centres of excellence in education for 0-11 years
- * ...in expanding both our core offer, and places for pupils
- * ...in seeking opportunities for providing our community with facilities that rival those found in the private sector

FLEXIBILITY

- * ...to share resources and skills between our schools, across our network and beyond
- * ...to achieve greater economies of scale
- * ...to share staff across both sites to maximise the benefit of individuals' expertise
- * ...long term, in offering pay and remuneration packages that attract and retain excellent teaching and support staff
- * ...to maximise the use of space in our buildings

CAPACITY

- * ...in expanding to meet the needs of a growing local population both in Southwater and its surrounding communities
- * ...in having the freedom to 'grow' our Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) with the ability to 'fix' class sizes that suit the needs of existing and future pupils, our community and to ensure 'outstanding status' can be both maintained and enhanced

COMMUNITY

- * ...having the ability to respond quickly to the needs of our community
- * ...providing first-class education from 0-11, attracting families to the schools and our local community
- * ...promoting and extending community cohesion by further developing our core values

SHARED RESOURCES

- * ...all facilities in both academies will be made available, within reasonable limits, to our local community – both children and adults
- * ...both academies will be committed to ensuring that existing relationships with network schools, community churches, resident clubs and activities, extended schools' facilities etc. in our community will remain positively, and mutually beneficial and, where possible, will be enhanced

'SPONSORSHIP' & INCOME

- * ...we would have the right to approach local, national and global organisations and businesses who may like to invest in education in support of their corporate social responsibility
- * ...such monies would allow us to look seriously at potential capital projects currently beyond our budgets
- * ...such capital projects would allow us to be highly proactive in our approach to generating income across our sites – lettings, CPD, extended school provision, community facilities etc.

CONSIDERATIONS

- * ...we will become independent of the Local Authority, and become a Limited Company
- * ...we will become self-governing
- * ...we may need to ultimately outsource our current LA services to 'best value' experts
- * ...with freedom comes greater responsibility but more choice
- * ...we will be accountable to OFSTED, the Board of Trustees, the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Young People's Learning Agency
- * ...the Board of Trustees is an elected body that replaces the existing governing body – we would actively look to recruit expertise from our local community

AN ACADEMY

- * ...is about utilising our already highly-skilled school leadership, focussing on the moral imperative
- * ...is about evidence informed school-led innovation
- * ...explicitly aims for the highest standards – always
- * ...has the freedom to act in the best interests of its existing pupils and those to come
- * ...such as ours would be morally driven to eliminate gaps in achievement
- * ...such as ours would use its status to share best practice and innovative methods with others in, and across, our community

In summary in answer to some of your questions:

- * Almost everything that we currently offer and do will remain unchanged
- * But we can and will do more using our academy status!