



## Queenswood Primary School and Nursery

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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs E Willoughby

Chair of Governors: Mr P Dyson

### **Joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Consultation Letter for Parents, Carers and Members of the Community.**

Dear reader,

A key priority for Queenswood Primary School's Governing Board is to enable our school to provide an excellent education for our children, whilst protecting our school's ethos and identity, and retaining its individual qualities and strengths.

Over recent years, Queenswood, like many schools, has faced a number of challenges; these have included changes to our leadership team, staff restructures - and, more recently, the need to put in place measures to keep our staff and children safe during the ongoing pandemic, whilst adapting to continue to provide a high quality education for our children remotely, together with support to parents and carers.

Working together with other local schools in a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) would offer many benefits for our pupils, the school and the wider community. We believe that by working collaboratively we can provide a first-class, educational experience and environment in which all our children can excel. We believe it is vital that we work together in partnership with a like-minded group of local schools which will allow us to retain our school's identity and increase its capacity to sustain future improvements.

As a Governing Board we are currently exploring a partnership arrangement with an existing MAT, consisting of two local schools which are both judged by Ofsted as 'good' - Priorslee Primary Academy (the lead school) and Buildwas Primary Academy.

There are many benefits to be gained from being part of this Trust. Our school would retain much of its independence and strength in being part of the local community, whilst benefiting from opportunities for pupils and staff to work together across the three schools, sharing expertise and good practice in order to deliver an outstanding learning experience for our children. The three schools would both support and challenge one another to provide excellence in all aspects. There are also financial benefits to the school in being part of a MAT.

I have attached an introductory letter from the Executive Head Teacher of Priorslee Academy Trust, Mr Tilley (Steven), which will provide you with further information about the Trust and its values. Mr Tilley and Mr Ferriday have been working very closely together with the Governing Board to develop plans for the possible conversion to Academy status, which could take effect from 1 September 2021.

I would like to stress that there are a number of steps to becoming part of a MAT. It is only with the agreement of the Department for Education that our school can proceed, and there are certain criteria that we will need to meet before the Trustees of the existing MAT will be able to agree to a formal partnership.

As valued stakeholders in the future of Queenswood Primary School, the Governing Board would very much welcome your views. This consultation is open to all parents, pupils, staff and the wider community, and will end on 22 February 2021, with a view to the Governing Board making a final decision by 26 February 2021. I have included a feedback form for you to record your thoughts and questions, which we would ask you to complete and return to the school office by 22 February 2021.

Our strength as a school, and that of our proposed partners, means we are confident that, together, we have the vision, skills and resources necessary to best serve the interests of our community and provide a sustainable future for our school.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dyson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Paul Dyson  
Chair of Governors