

Rusthall St Paul's C. E. Primary School

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Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that at our last Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting in November 2023, the Governors of Rusthall St. Paul's Primary School voted unanimously in favour of pursuing academisation. This is in line with the strategy the Interim Executive Board previously shared with parents, carers and staff.

Over the past few years, the school has become vulnerable, with a reduction in pupil numbers, a contraction in the number of classes; the loss of a substantive Head teacher leading to a subsequent transitory leadership structure and more recently, being graded as Requires Improvement by Ofsted.

Collaboration with the Inspire Academy Movement has meant that we began this school year on an upward trajectory and have now received positive feedback from the Local Authority. As a result, we are confident that when Ofsted return, we will once again be a 'Good' school.

We will be completing an application to gain an academy order in Term 4; however, it is not guaranteed that the application will be approved. If the order is granted, the FGB will then share the academisation plans in detail and launch a formal six-week public consultation which will give all stakeholders a chance to share their views. Following the consultation, the FGB will consider the responses and make their final decision.

As you are aware, we have worked in collaboration with the Inspire Academy Movement since the start of this academic year and we are already seeing vast improvements to our school. If the decision is to academise, the school will apply to formally join the Inspire Academy Movement. We are hopeful that this will happen for September 2024, however, there may be unforeseen circumstances that mean it could be later than this.

While we pursue this option, we do not anticipate any change in the current arrangements for the school and we will continue to be supported by the Inspire Academy Movement.

We are all really excited for what the future holds for Rusthall St. Paul's Primary School reaching the potential we know that everyone and especially our pupils deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Hinckley & Simon Griffiths.

Co-Chairs of Governors, Rusthall St Paul's Primary School.