



A Coastal Alliance Co-operative
Trust Foundation School



Briary Primary School
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Widening Horizons, Raising Aspirations

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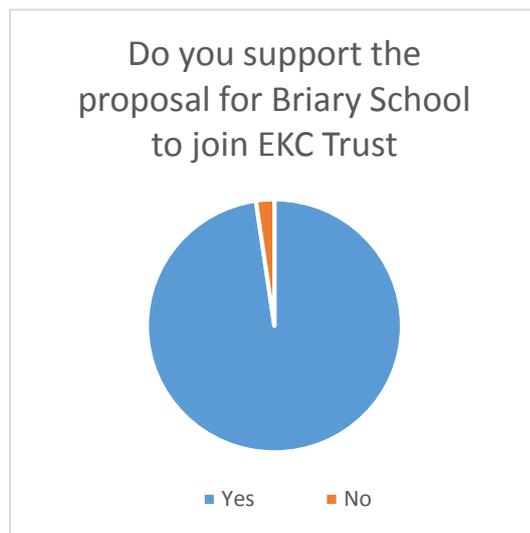
8th November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for responding to our consultation to join EKC Schools Trust, which closed on 2nd October 2019. Members of the Governing Body met on 11th October to review the responses and the comments raised in the consultation events held on 18th September and 24th September. Governors also attended Meet the Teachers on 11th September and the Macmillan Coffee morning on 27th September. The feedback was presented to the Full Governing Board meeting on 17th October.

Parent and staff letters and FAQs were circulated on 3rd September 2019, providing an opportunity for all to respond and ask further questions. There were eight responses from Parents/Carers with seven saying 'Yes' and one 'unsure'. One staff member responded with 'no' and several queries were raised by staff which were addressed at the time in a one-to-one meeting. The questions and answers will be found in the full Consultation document.

To gather more responses, parents at the Consultation Event suggested that Parent Mail was used to gather more feedback. As a result, we received 129 responses to the Parent Consultation by Parent Mail. Of those returned, 126 were in favour of the proposal to join EKC Schools Trust; 2 were against the proposal. Please note that some responses were from the same family, when they had children in different classes.



Following, are the key themes of those parents and staff who were in favour of the proposal:

- If it helps the school get more money, very keen to go ahead
- Brilliant idea
- Parents said that there is 'no talking about it' on the playground – if people thought it was negative, they would say so
- Parents do not seem to be concerned and are happy for SLT to make the decision
- Parents are aware of financial problems in last two years
- Staff felt it would give pupils opportunities outside of the area and aspirations for children
- Several parents commented that they, their children and some grandchildren have attended the school and they have confidence in the school making the right decision.

Some parents voiced their concerns about the proposal, the key themes of which can be summarised as follows:

- Open to change but considers this move a risk as what happens if it does not work out. Briary is a great school, achieves great things and would rather have a government backed school than EKC Trust
- Changing to an academy is not necessarily for the better – *the EKC model is unique*
- Will the uniform change? – *No – GB set the uniform*
- Will term dates change? – *No – GB set dates and no plans to change at present*
- Will SEN funding change? – *No – same funding and provision as it is now*
- Will the school have more/less money – *No - the school will have same amount of money, but savings such as access to staff training and access to facilities will make a positive financial impact*

The Governing Body and leadership of the school have taken seriously each concern raised throughout the consultation process. We would like to reassure parents, once again, that the proposal to join the EKC Schools Trust is made following extensive research into various options, the process of academisation and the EKC Trust itself. We believe that the EKC Trust we propose to join is wholly aligned with the vision that we have for our school and its children. We feel passionately that joining EKC Schools Trust will allow us to further strengthen our curriculum offer and allow us to build on the excellent level of education that we offer to our pupils. The Governing Body recognises that the EKC Trust model of an academy is different, unique and supports our vision for the future. We would like to reassure parents that the trust model that is proposed is quite different from other academies which might have been experienced by parents. The school will retain its Local Governing Body, Headteacher and leadership team and the day-to-day operations of the school will change little, if at all, from the perspective of the children, except for additional resources offered from within the EKC Trust.

We are thankful to parents, carers and the community who have engaged with the Consultation process and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

At the Governing Board meeting on 17th October 2019, the Governing Body, resolved to join the EKC Schools Trust and will now officially commence the process to do so. While this is a complicated legal process, and therefore we are unable to provide an exact date as to when the school shall convert, we will, of course, keep you informed of all major developments as they occur. The school is currently a Foundation Trust School within the Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust (CACoT), we requested that we formally change our status from that of Foundation to Partner School, as we value our working relationship with CACoT schools. This was agreed at the Annual General Meeting of CACoT on 7th November 2019.

I hope that you agree that this is an exciting time for Briary Primary School and we thank you for your support as we enter a new phase of the school's journey.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Anna Webber
Chair of Governors



Mrs Nicky Murrell
Acting Head Teacher