

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Rodd

Dear Parents and Carers

CONVERSION TO THE ACADEMIES FOR CHARACTER AND EXCELLENCE

1. As you know, Milborne Port Primary School is currently a maintained school under the management of Somerset Council. I am writing to let you know that the Governing Body has taken the decision to apply to leave the local authority and convert to an academy and we are seeking your views on this proposal.

2. The key drivers for joining an academy are to provide the school with effective professional support and development, effective school improvement and greater certainty around the financial position. Our aim is to provide the very best for all of our children. Governors have taken this decision in the light of the challenging position Somerset Council finds itself in and their decision to provide fewer common services at greater cost and the lack of professional support that has been apparent in recent years.

3. We have looked at a number of possible academy trusts and have concluded that the best fit with MPPS is the Academies for Character and Excellence (ACE). They are a primary based academy with a strong collaborative approach to school improvement, professional development and excellence that will help us move forward as a school and improve outcomes for all the children. ACE currently have ten schools in Devon and have recently taken on a further seven in Somerset, with a base at Dillington House. Most importantly, ACE values align strongly with our own - Building a Foundation for Life and the Seven Bees. Whilst the Academy will provide some central functions, such as finance and HR, they believe strongly that each of their schools has its unique and local feel and rely on the local governing board to help reflect this.

4. The final decision on whether or not we can join ACE will be taken by the Department for Education.

5. The name of the school will remain the same and it will continue to be led by Mr Rodd, supported by the Governing Body. We will retain our special feel with our strong values and focus on the children. The uniform will not be changed. We believe that joining the academy will help us to deliver an even better experience for your children and will support the staff to deliver this.



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6. We are planning to hold an open meeting with parents and carers on the 15th of January at 6pm when representatives from ACE will be present to answer any questions you have. You are warmly invited to attend to learn more about the proposals. In the meantime if you have views or questions please contact us at Academyconsultation@MPPrimary.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Janet Walden

Chair of Governors

