



Date	June 2017
Distribution	To all parents and carers at Hilltop Infant School
Contents	The consultation programme in support of Hilltop Infant School becoming an Academy in the HEARTS Academy Trust

Hello,

As part of the process of securing a positive new future for Hilltop Infant School, the HEARTS Academy Trust has been proposed as the new sponsor for the school as it changes from being run by Essex County Council to becoming a new academy.

***What does this mean?***

The key change being proposed here is that the school will no longer be under the control of Essex County Council and will be part of the HEARTS Academy Trust – a registered charity and provider of education services – which already successfully runs schools locally.

***Does this mean Hilltop Infant School will become a private school?***

Not at all. The school remains publicly funded and remains a core part of the family of schools in locally – the responsibility for standards, outcomes and for staffing however, changes to be under the control of the Trust.

***When is this planned to happen?***

This is proposed to take place on **1st of September 2017**. This will require the Trust to enter into a **Funding Agreement** with the Department of Education and for the school to formally transfer to the Trust.

***What happens to the staff?***

All staff will transfer under the TUPE provisions to the Trust – which becomes their new employer.

***Why is this being proposed? Why not just leave things the way they are?***

The decision was made as a way of further improving already existing partnerships and collaborations with Wickford schools and to support sustainability and further teaching and learning opportunities.

***Who are the HEARTS Academy Trust?***

The HEARTS Academy Trust is a multi-academy trust established to help schools in need of support to become outstanding education providers. The Trust believes in providing a truly community focused offer to all our pupils and their families and works with schools to be the local school of choice in every setting. For more information, please see <http://www.heartsacademytrust.co.uk/>

***What changes will happen as a result of this proposed switch to being part of the HEARTS Academy Trust?***

The changes will mostly be in how staff are supported to tailor education to meet your child's needs – we are not planning to change the uniform, name of the school, logo or how the school currently operates in terms of opening and closing or day to day running. We will continue to focus however on behaviour, attendance, attainment and ensuring that your child is safe, happy and doing the very best they can, every day.

***What is a funding agreement and why are you asking for my views on this?***

The Funding Agreement is the contract that the Trust will sign with the Department of Education to formally transfer the current Hilltop Infant School into the Trust. We want your views on this as we intend to be here running the school for a very long time to come – and its vital that we seek the views of every parent, carer and key interested groups before this happens.

***How can I get involved or feedback my views on the process?***

We are therefore seeking your views on this proposed change – which you can share with us by emailing [admin@heartsacademy.uk](mailto:admin@heartsacademy.uk)

Everything the Trust does is focussed on improving the quality of education for children in our schools – we don't make a profit; we don't accept second best for any of our pupils – and we don't believe in making excuses for when things do not go entirely as planned. I very much hope to meet as many of you as possible over the course of the next month, please do take the time to complete the questionnaire below and to come to any of the events we've planned.

I look forward to meeting you all soon.



Debbie Rogan  
CEO / Executive Head Teacher

## Hilltop Infant School Public Consultation Questionnaire

We passionately believe that every child has the right to an outstanding education - that every day in school should be good or better. We work closely with our teachers and support staff to train and develop their skills and techniques in delivering our proven and highly successful teaching strategies and we have committed to making Hilltop Infant School the local school of choice for all pupils and families locally.

This consultation is find out your views on the proposed change to make Hilltop Infant School an Academy - and to have the HEARTS Academy Trust run the school and be responsible for your child's primary education. We welcome the opportunity to meet as many local families and stakeholders as possible - thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

We held an event on 14<sup>th</sup> June to which all parents were invited to come and meet the Trust:

For more information or to discuss any aspect of this further, please contact us at [admin@heartsacademy.uk](mailto:admin@heartsacademy.uk)

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

No.	Question	Answer
1.	Do you agree that the proposed Hilltop Infant School should open in September 2017 as an Academy, which would involve the HEARTS Academy Trust entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>The Funding Agreement is the contract the Trust will sign with the Department of Education to formalize the transfer of the school to the Trust.</i>
2.	The Trust is not seeking to change the name of the school, the logo or the uniform. Are there any physical aspects of the school you would like to see change?	<i>Please let us know your views here:</i>

3.	In your view, what is the most important thing for the Trust to successfully deliver?	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieving the best possible academic outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring children are happy and well-rounded <input type="checkbox"/> Providing a clear behaviour code for all children based on mutual respect <input type="checkbox"/> A balanced curriculum in preparation for secondary school <input type="checkbox"/> A caring and nurturing environment <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for enrichment or support for learners who need stretch or further support <input type="checkbox"/> A safe and secure environment <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please insert below):
4.	The Trust would like to extend the range of services - clubs, support structures and activities for pupils and their families. Which of the following would you be most interested in seeing the new Academy offer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Club (starting at 0730) <input type="checkbox"/> After School Care (to 18h00) <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Literacy and Numeracy Support Sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Homework Survival Sessions for Parents and Carers <input type="checkbox"/> Signposting to Services <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Holiday Sporting Clubs <input type="checkbox"/> IT Support and Skills Development Classes for Parents and Carers <input type="checkbox"/> Early Years Provision <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please insert below):
5.	The Trust sets high standards for pupils and staff to aspire to and achieve every day. What are you most interested about in terms of the proposed change to becoming an Academy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Homework - and how this is planned <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline and behaviour at the school <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Special Education Support Services <input type="checkbox"/> Access to sporting facilities and clubs <input type="checkbox"/> Training and support for Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of the School Buildings and grounds <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of ICT for pupils to use <input type="checkbox"/> Policies about how the Trust runs its schools <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please insert below):

6.	Are there any other views, thoughts or suggestions you would like to share with the HEARTS Academy Trust team?	<i>Please let us know your views here:</i>

***Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return to the school reception team or ask your child to drop it off in the morning. We really value your input.***