Moorside Community Primary School

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Head Teacher: L Hall

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22nd May 2018,

Dear Staff.

**CONSULTATION TO CONVERT TO A FOUNDATION TRUST AND JOIN WEST END SCHOOLS’ TRUST**

You may be aware that the government is keen on schools working together and that its preferred vehicle for this, is as an academy. A Foundation Trust is a lesser known but I believe a more compelling model for Moorside Community Primary School. We are writing to you, to outline our **initial proposals** to consider whether to convert to a Foundation School and join the West End Schools’ Trust. Please note that no decision has been made as yet, before proceeding to the next stage, we would like to know what you think about the proposals.

The governing body and I have spent over a year considering options for Moorside Community Primary School. With us de-federating in September 2017, this has meant that Moorside is one of only two community primary schools left in Newcastle. Our main purpose over the last year was to consider what would be best for our children. The role of the LA (Local Authority) is reducing and Newcastle LA has been working with schools over the last five years to develop school to school support. If Moorside Community Primary School was to become a Foundation School and join the West End Schools’ Trust we would have the added advantage of working with a group of schools and still being a LA-maintained school.

To explain the proposals in more detail we have arranged to hold an “information sharing” coffee morning at Moorside Community Primary School at 9.15 am on the 7th June 2018 for parents/carers. This will enable us all to discuss the “consultation” in more detail and provide them with more information. We will also be placing further information on our website as it becomes available [**www.moorside.newcastle.sch.uk**](http://www.moorside.newcastle.sch.uk)**.**

We will be holding a “staff information sharing meeting” at 3.30pm on the 5th June 2018. This will enable us to discuss the consultation in more detail, provide staff with more information and allow them the opportunity to raise any queries. If it proceeds to the next stage (formal consultation), we will invite all unions to attend a meeting alongside HR (Human Resources).

Moorside Community Primary School is unique; we serve our local community. We actively promote an inclusive ethos amongst our diverse community that is fully supported by all members of staff and governors. We have a strong team of dedicated and supportive staff who work very hard to provide the best opportunities for all, promoting a culture of respect based on mutual understanding where children are polite and courteous to one another and the adults.

Moorside Community Primary School is a larger than average-sized primary school at the heart of the West End of Newcastle. We are a school which was judged to be good by Ofsted in September 2016, they acknowledged that provision for children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was strong and that within our diverse school community, children develop a close understanding of different religions and cultures, helping to prepare them well for life in modern Britain. We operate an inclusive school where every child is valued and we work hard to help our children develop their skills, knowledge and positive attitudes in order to help them to become responsible, respectful and tolerant citizens of the future.

**Converting to a Foundation Trust would allow us, through our governing body, to maintain our identity and our budget**.

We are very fortunate to have a local established Trust called the West End Schools’ Trust (WEST). They are a charitable company of seven primary schools and partner organisations located in the inner west of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. Formed in January 2015, they are currently responsible for the education of over two thousand six hundred pupils and they employ over two hundred and fifty teachers, teaching assistants and administrative staff.

They strengthen the schools’ co-operative work, and encourage collaborative work with identified key partners to further improve standards and enhance opportunities for children, parents, staff and the wider community. They encourage all members of the community to get involved.

We think that joining the West End Schools’ Trust is the right path and would be beneficial for Moorside.

The schools that are already part of the West End Schools’ Trust are:

**Bridgewater School**

**Broadwood Primary School**

**Canning Street Primary School**

**Hawthorn Primary School**

**St. John’s Primary School**

**St. Paul’s C of E Primary School**

**Wingrove Primary School**

For more information about the Trust, please visit [**www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk**](http://www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk/website)**.**

The governors and I firmly believe that this co-operative partnership would allow us to share the cost of buying in services – professional services such as learning support or advisors to help us maintain the validity of our self-evaluation for Ofsted. It would allow us to benefit from expertise in the other schools, such as using advice from the schools with specialist educational provision – something that we currently have to buy in from elsewhere. It would also enable us to further enrich our curriculum provision.

The key differences are that the Governing Body becomes responsible for staff employment, admission and term dates and that land and buildings transfer to the Trust. The school will still be a LA maintained school.

We would be able to keep our own identity; share our expertise and good practice. Education is facing challenging times and we believe this is the best model to take our school forward. We would request any feedback from you by the **19th June 2018 at noon.**  If you prefer, you are welcome to complete the questionnaire form. For record purposes your responses would need to be in writing. This information will be retained by the school during the complete consultation period and will then be destroyed. All comments will be treated as “confidential”. Responses will be accepted by email or via post: **Address: L Hall, Head Teacher, Moorside Community Primary School, Beaconsfield Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5AW. Email:** [**admin@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk**](mailto:admin@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk)**.**

It is anticipated that subject to the results of the consultation that Moorside Community Primary School would endeavour to join the West End Trust in the Autumn Term 2018.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this,**

**Yours sincerely**

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**L Hall B Clark**

**Head Teacher Vice Chair**

**Moorside Community Primary School Moorside Primary School Governing Body**