

DUNNINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Academy Consultation Drop-In Session – Friday 11th November 2016

Two parents attended and the following areas were raised:

Reservations were raised about the potential differentiation gap between outstanding schools and those schools requiring improving – apparently this had been the situation in Leeds where all the money went to the requiring improving schools and the outstanding schools relied heavily on sponsorship money – would this happen?

CH outlined the background to the South York Schools' Partnership and how it had worked as an informal soft federation for a number of years. It was outlined that we would be a convertor academy, choosing to do this to shape our own destiny and strengthen our provision as opposed to a sponsored academy that was being forced into an existing MAT. We are not looking for an organisation to sponsor us.

Funding is tight and the services being offered by the LA are being squeezed. Schools that have a lot of pupil premium pupils will always generate more additional funding. It is important that schools that have fewer pupil premium children can still provide the same support as others and by pooling our resources and expertise, we would be better placed to do this.

Concern was expressed about staff CPD if the LA no longer provided for this?

The local authority no longer has a responsibility for CPD. There are two teaching schools in York that have provided such support for the past two years – Ebor Teaching School Alliance provide School to School support and Pathfinder Teaching School provides CPD training for schools. The money to support these was agreed by Schools Forum to be top sliced from every school budget. Headteachers are consulted by the teaching schools to shape the CPD offer.

Reference was made to Fulford being the 'lead' school?

Reassurances were given that the cluster works very much as a partnership of schools and that Caroline Hancy is currently Chair of the South York Schools Partnership.

Admissions and catchment areas were also discussed and would this change in the future? Would all pupils be guaranteed a place at Fulford if we joined as a MAT? Are places available at the school for increased capacity within the village?

The LA would continue to have a statutory duty for school place planning, SEN provision and as Champions for Parents/Carers. Any changes to admissions, whether with the LA or Academy, would require a consultation with all stakeholders. Academies as well as Local Authorities must meet all the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code.