



Bardsey Primary School

Woodacre Lane Bardsey LS17 9DG

Tel: 01937 572612 Email: [office@bardseyprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@bardseyprimary.org.uk)

**Acting Headteacher: Graham Parry**

Dear Parents/Carers,

23rd May 2022

Since Mr Parry has joined the school on secondment from The Gorse Academy Trust the governors have been looking closely at the potential of the school joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). We have undertaken a huge amount of research into a wide range of different MATs and there have been many extra meetings and discussions. Our key guiding principles have been to preserve the unique ethos of our school and to join a partnership that will enrich and support the further development of our school rather than change it.

We believe that joining an excellent MAT will bring significant benefits to our school community, including investment in our facilities and enhanced professional development for our staff. The sharing of knowledge and resources across a small group of schools can help to achieve better outcomes for children. There is also evidence to suggest that being in a MAT helps build resilience to deal with a crisis, such as the Covid pandemic we have experienced and are now emerging from. Furthermore, since it is the government's intention that all schools will become academies by 2030 (Ref: Government's White Paper for Education, 2022); the Governing Board feel it is prudent to be proactive now.

The Governing Body has communicated with a number of multi academy trusts and has conducted a robust analysis of benefits and opportunities presented by them. Having given full consideration to all the evidence, including discussions with the Local Authority, the Governing Body has voted unanimously to submit a statement of intent to the Regional Schools Commissioner to join The GORSE Academy Trust (TGAT). TGAT is a MAT founded initially through The Morley Academy but which now has twelve Leeds based schools in its group including good and outstanding primary and secondary schools.

Our primary partners in the group will be Morley Newlands Academy, Ryecroft Academy, Richmond Hill Academy and Hillcrest Academy - all judged on Ofsted inspection as "Good" or "Outstanding" Schools. In addition, there are six 11-16 secondary academies, including Boston Spa Academy and Elliot Hudson College. TGAT are also the Leeds Teaching School Hub for the city, providing training and career development to teachers from those training to become a teacher, through to headship and beyond. We are excited about the opportunity to be involved and see huge benefits in working with a variety of schools from which there will be much for us to learn and much for us to share.

TGAT ensure that schools in their group retain their own identity and sense of community, and this has been evident when Bardsey governor representatives have visited TGAT schools as part of our due diligence process. We have seen that TGAT schools not only prioritise excellent academic standards but they give high regard to the care and well-being of their pupils and staff. The recent Richmond Hill Academy Ofsted inspection report commends this as a "breathtaking" strength of the school.





As you all know, we have been supported since January by TGAT, through the secondment of Mr Parry as Headteacher. Whilst there was no long-term commitment (he is seconded until December 2022) from either party regarding this arrangement, working with TGAT and Mr Parry has already proved extremely productive and is something the staff and governors would like to see continue.

The decision of Bardsey governors is subject to further due diligence, consultation with key stakeholders and approval from the Regional Commissioner's Advisory Board.

As parents and carers are one of our main stakeholders we are now at the stage where we need to formally consult with you about our proposed decision. We are already consulting with staff and other partners/stakeholders. The consultation period will run from 24th May until the 24th June. We understand that you may have some apprehension about Bardsey joining a MAT so we would like to offer you the opportunity to attend one of two question and answer sessions at the school. At the meetings will be Gordon Milne (Chair of Governors), Julia Norton (Vice Chair of Governors), Jane Ambrose (previous Chair of Governors), Sir John Townsley (Chief Executive Officer of TGAT), Richard Amos (Strategic Leads Officer of TGAT), Graham Parry (Headteacher).

The meetings will take place in the large hall on the following dates:

1st Parent/Carers meeting - Tuesday 7th June 6.30pm

2nd Parent/Carers meeting - Thursday 16th June 09.00am (after drop off)

If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please complete the reply slip and either email it to [c.marsh@bardseyprimary.org.uk](mailto:c.marsh@bardseyprimary.org.uk) or hand it in to the school office. If you cannot attend and would still like to ask a question or make a comment you can do this by emailing: [g.milne@bardseyprimary.org.uk](mailto:g.milne@bardseyprimary.org.uk) (please put 'Multi Academy Trust Consultation' in the subject box). You can also post questions/comments to the school; please address the envelope to the Chair of Governors and marked 'Multi Academy Trust' The deadline for submissions of any of the above will be 24th June when the consultation period ends.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Milne



## **BARDSEY PARENTS/CARERS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

Please put a tick next to the meeting you would like to attend and print your name(s) below.  
Please also indicate the year group(s) your child(ren) is in.

1st Consultation meeting Tuesday 7th June 6.30pm

2nd Consultation meeting Thursday 16th June 09.00am

YEAR GROUP(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT(S) ATTENDING:

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR  
EMAIL IT TO: [c.marsh@bardseyprimary.org.uk](mailto:c.marsh@bardseyprimary.org.uk)