

4th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Formal consultation on the proposed conversion of Coten End Primary School to an academy and to join the Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust (SVMAT)

Alongside the governing body of Coten End Primary School, I have been investigating academisation for the last couple of years to determine what benefits there could be for our school. We have reached the conclusion that conversion to academy status and joining a strong multi-academy trust (MAT) would be in the best interests of the pupils, staff and our community. Joining a MAT will not stop us from being the school we are, serving the pupils of Warwick. The discussions with governors have focused on how we can benefit from working with schools both within our local area, more widely in Warwickshire and in a MAT whilst retaining our strong identity as Coten End Primary School. A number of options were considered and explored but I believe the proposal to join SVMAT best achieves this aim.

You may be aware that in recent years, the government and DfE (Department for Education) have signalled their intention that all schools should be part of strong multi-academy trusts. As a school we want to decide our own future and we feel it's important that we are approaching the academisation agenda proactively.

There are many different models of MATs from national organisations that are run centrally with very little variation and autonomy between the schools in the trust, to groups of schools that have come together to share practice and share the same vision for children and young people. Being part of the SVMAT allows us to benefit from school-to-school support, cost efficiencies and broader pupil opportunities without compromising our own provision or identity. Their website allows you to find out more about the MAT <https://www.stowevalleymat.com/>

I can confirm that the structure of the SVMAT will protect and enshrine the individual character and ethos of Coten End Primary School.

Governors have now consented for me to consult with all stakeholders regarding the conversion and the proposal to join Stowe Valley MAT. I have included some FAQs which I hope you will find helpful.

The 3-week (15 working days) consultation process will take place from today, Monday 4th March 2024. As part of the consultation, we will be holding an information meeting on **Monday 18th March 2024 at 6.15 p.m.** in Lower School Hall. The evening will involve a short presentation followed by an opportunity for us to answer questions that we request you submit in advance. There will also be the opportunity to speak to governors, members of the senior leadership team and members of the Stowe Valley MAT Central team, including the CEO.

Please complete the Google form if you would like to attend the meeting and/or submit questions or comments. Following the end of the consultation process, we will publish the questions that were asked and the responses.

<https://forms.gle/aaEzZGm2XTYsKCih8>

The consultation will close at 3.00 pm on Friday 22nd March.

On behalf of the governors, I would encourage you to engage in the consultation. We value your feedback, so any comments are welcome on the Google form. We will review consultation feedback from all stakeholders and inform you of the outcome and next steps shortly after the consultation closes. There will be a specially dedicated section on our website to enable us to update you on any progress and for you to view any relevant letters, documents etc.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Sheepy