



St Mark's C.E. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Clare Wright

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Dear parents & carers,

We are writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, the Governing Body of St Mark's CE School is seeking to convert to become an academy as part of The Prospect Trust (TPT). In seeking to convert to become an academy, our priority is to ensure we continue to provide a high-quality education for our students. We believe that joining TPT will support the strategic priorities of the school and support our drive for continuous improvement.

At this stage we are not committing the School to conversion to Academy status. We are consulting with everyone associated with our School before Governors meet again to make a final decision.

After a rigorous due diligence process which considered a variety of different Multi-Academy Trusts, the Governing Body has determined that TPT is the best choice for St Mark's pupils, families, staff and the wider community, for the following reasons:

1. TPT fully supports the vision, values and ethos of St Mark's School. Governors believe that the school will be able to enjoy the benefits of joining a larger family of schools whilst retaining its unique identity as a Church school at the heart of the community it serves.
2. The staff and students at St Mark's have already benefitted from the collaboration and partnership with Frimley C of E Junior School. After several years of uncertainty regarding the leadership of the school, the governors are convinced that joining TPT represents the best means of securing permanent and stable leadership with Clare Wright, Rachel Jones and Sally Williams continuing to provide leadership at both schools
3. TPT has a solid track record of educational performance and will support the school to continue improving educational outcomes.



4. TPT is financially robust and has a successful track record of supporting schools to maximise their income and achieve efficiency savings. This will help ensure the long-term financial sustainability of St Mark's.
5. TPT offers significant development opportunities for all staff and is committed to supporting the progression and retention of staff. TPT also offers a number of benefits to support the on-going well-being of staff which the school cannot currently offer.
6. TPT has an established methodology for supporting collaborative working and sharing of best practice across the Trust to achieve sustained school improvement.

The Prospect Trust is a local trust serving the communities of Farnborough and Frimley. It currently has three schools: Farnborough Sixth Form College, Tomlinscote School and Frimley C of E Junior School. More information about TPT can be found on their website: www.theprospecttrust.org.uk

Before proceeding with the conversion, there will be a formal consultation in which we invite you to share your views and ask any questions you may have.

The consultation begins today, 3rd December 2024. During this period, we are inviting you to comment in writing to either the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors, using the email addresses below. Opportunities can be given to ask questions in person, and please do mention this in your communication if you would like to take up this opportunity. Please do take time to read the FAQs below. The consultation will close on 31st January 2025. The Governors will meet after this date to consider how to proceed.

This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of our current school community and secure the future of our school for generations to come. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, with any comments or questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your active consideration and thought regarding this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hartley

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