

BROOM BARNS COMMUNITY SCHOOL (THE 'SCHOOL')

GOVERNING BODY PROPOSAL TO CHANGE OF CATEGORY OF THE SCHOOL TO FOUNDATION STATUS

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 21st June 2017

School Details

The name, address and category of the School for which the Governing Body is publishing the proposals is:
Broom Barns Community School, Homestead Moat, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 1UE (a community school).

Dates

The proposed implementation date is **1st October 2017**

Objections and comments

Any person may object to or comment on this proposal. Objections or comments should be sent by 20th July 2017, being four weeks after publication of the proposal to:

Address:

The Governing Body. C/O Richard Hewgil Chairperson at:
Broom Barns Community School
Homestead Moat
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 1UE

Email: admin@broombarns.herts.sch.uk

All submissions should be marked "**Response to Foundation Proposals**".

Alteration statement

The proposals comprise a change of category from a community school to a foundation school which is an alteration prescribed in regulation 3 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The proposals do not involve the establishment or acquisition of a separate foundation trust.

The rationale for the proposal to change the school's category to foundation is as follows:

Becoming a foundation school will mean that the Governing Body becomes the employer of School staff, the School's own admissions authority and the freehold owner of the School's land and buildings. The Governing Body believes that this increased independence and enhanced level of responsibility will afford the necessarily flexibility to enable the School to drive up standards and the quality of the educational provision overall for the pupils.

Further information on the Governing Body's rationale for the proposals is included at **Annex A**.

[A copy of the letter sent to stakeholders, including staff and parents, on foundation category change is included at **Annex B**.]

ANNEX A – Further details on rationale

A: Broom Barns School's KS2 results from July 2016:

Reading	89.3
Writing	82.1
Maths	82.1
GPS	89.3
RWM combined	78.6

B: Summary of last full Ofsted report:

This is a good school.

- Pupils make good progress from starting points that are often significantly below those typically found. Their progress has rapidly improved since the last inspection due to consistently good-quality teaching.
- Attainment has risen over the last three years. In Year 6 in 2013 it was above average overall, and especially in reading. This year, more pupils are on track to reach the higher levels in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Pupils' behaviour in and around the school is exemplary and this has a very positive impact on their learning. The school's work to ensure pupils' safety is excellent.
- The improvements made to leadership and pupils' achievement since the previous inspection show the school has the capacity to continue improving.
- The school has actively sought extra support, advice and training through a range of partnerships. This has had a very positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning.
- The governing body has improved the way it challenges and supports leaders by developing an innovative system for closely checking the school's work.

C: Main finding of Ofsted in last section:

It is not yet an outstanding school because

- The standard of boys' writing remains below that of the girls.
- Some teachers do not ask pupils searching questions in lessons to check the success of their teaching.
- The school does not make effective use of the outdoor environment to support pupils' learning.
- Teachers' expectations of the quality of pupils' work are not high enough in some subjects.

D: Impact on changing status of the school in relation to standards:

Foundation schools have a greater degree of independence than community schools. It would allow us to become accountable to the local community rather than the whole of Hertfordshire. If the school obtains Foundation status, the Governing body would become the employer of school staff and would own the Freehold of the school site. We believe that this would give the school greater independence and the chance to further raise standards.

ANNEX B – letter to stakeholders

Head:
Mrs J Currant

Tel:
01438 354913

Broom Barns Community Primary School

Homestead Moat, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1UE



Email: admin@broombarns.herts.sch.uk

Deputy Head:
Mrs J Phillips

Assistant Head:
Mrs L Hogan

19th June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The governors and I are writing to share our plans for the future direction of Broom Barns School. As you may be aware schools have the option of converting to become a foundation school and during the past few months the Governors have been discussing the implications of this process for Broom Barns and the benefits this would give our school and the community we serve.

Foundation Status

Foundation schools are still maintained by the local authority, in the same way as Broom Barns is at present. However, Foundation schools have a greater degree of independence than community schools. If the school obtains Foundation status, the Governing body would become the employer of school staff and would own the Freehold of the school site. We believe that this would give the school greater independence and the chance to further raise standards. The first step to achieving Foundation status would be for the Governing Body to publish formal proposals setting out its intention for the school to become a Foundation school. The publication of formal proposals would start a statutory four week consultation period for representations from all members of the school community. It would then be for the Governing Body to consider the representations received and determine whether or not to implement the proposals to become a Foundation school.

Foundation status is a separate and distinct process to academy conversion. If at a future time consideration is given to academy conversion a further consultation process would take place before a final decision to convert to an academy is made.

Further information will follow in the coming weeks setting out the time frame and how you can participate. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries on the content of this letter the

Governing Body is happy to receive correspondence:

- By email addressed to the Chair of Governors via admin@broombarns.herts.sch.uk
- Letters marked Foundation Status conversion and addressed to Chair of Governors via the school office.
- Additionally, the Head Teacher is always happy to discuss your views informally or by appointment.

Yours faithfully

Mr Richard Hewgill

Chair of Governors

Mrs Jayne Currant

Headteacher