



Griffin Primary School

Stewarts Road
London SW8 4JB
Tel: 020 7622 5087
Fax: 020 7720 6659
Email: info@griffinprimary.org.uk
Web: www.griffinprimary.org.uk
Executive Head Ms K Bastick-Styles

May 8th 2017

Dear Community Member/ Local Authority / Councillor / Member of Parliament

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR GRIFFIN PRIMARY SCHOOL TO JOIN THE ELLIOT FOUNDATION ACADEMIES TRUST (MAT)

Background

The Odyssey Academy Trust and Governing Body of Griffin Primary School decided in July 2016 for Griffin Primary School to transfer to join The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust and consulted with stakeholders on this in September 2016. However, following due diligence the transfer date had to be postponed whilst an application was made to the Education Funding Agency for capital funding. This has now been resolved and the Governing Body are consulting again on Griffin Primary School joining The Elliot Foundation.

The Governing Body of Griffin Primary has been considering carefully the school's future plans in a fast changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape.

We want to build on the strengths that we have at Griffin Primary. We want to work in partnership with schools that share our ambition for excellence. We also want access to high-quality support and challenge that will enable our school to continue to strive for our high standards.

Our priority is to enable the school to provide an excellent education for our students while protecting the school's role at the heart of our community and retaining the school's unique qualities and strengths.

Proposal

As you are aware, Griffin Primary is an academy supported by its own trust (The Odyssey Academy Trust). It is proposed that the academy trust become part of The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust (TEFAT) which is a highly successful multi academy trust (MAT).

The Elliot Foundation specialises in supporting primary schools and has an outstanding track record in enabling both strong and under-performing schools to make rapid and sustained improvement. It currently has a network of 26 academies across London, East Anglia and the West Midlands.

As a member of The Elliot Foundation the school will have access to and contribute to the best practice in teaching, learning, curriculum and pupil support. Importantly, we will retain much of our freedom to run Griffin Primary School as we think best for local children.

Subject to consultation it is the intention that Griffin Primary School joins The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust on August 1st 2017.

Consultation

The Governing Body wants to consult with parents, carers, staff, pupils and the wider community on the proposal for Griffin Primary School to become part of The Elliot Foundation.

The consultation period will run between Wednesday 10th May 2017 and Tuesday 6th June 2017. The Governing Body will then consider a report on the consultation before making a final decision on the proposal.





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To support parents and the community in developing their knowledge and understanding of what is involved in becoming part of The Elliot Foundation, we have organised information sessions for parents/ carers and the community, which will take place on:

Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 2.30pm at Griffin Primary School

If you would like to speak to Karen Bastick-Styles (Executive Headteacher) at any other time please contact her using the email address provided below and she will arrange a time to meet or talk.

We have prepared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document to help answer some of the questions we anticipate you may have.

If you are unable to attend these sessions but would like further information or would like to respond to our consultation you can contact the school in the following ways:

- Telephone 020 7622 5087
- Email kbs@griffinprimary.net
- front entrance Suggestions box located in the office at the main
- Complete our online survey on the school website at www.griffinprimary.org.uk

We look forward to speaking with you soon and to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Lenny Shallcross

Lenny Shallcross
Chair

Karen Bastick-Styles

Karen Bastick-Styles
Executive Headteacher

Enclosed:

- Griffin Primary consultation FAQs





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PROPOSAL FOR GRIFFIN PRIMARY SCHOOL TO JOIN THE ELLIOT FOUNDATION ACADEMIES TRUST (MAT)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the proposal?

The proposal is for Griffin Primary School to transfer to the new arrangement in August 2017 and join The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust.

2. How would this proposal benefit our school?

Our priority is to enable the school to provide an excellent education for our children while protecting the school's role at the heart of our community and retaining the school's unique qualities and strengths.

We believe that we should work in partnership with schools that share our ambition for excellence and be able to access high-quality support and challenge.

As a member of The Elliot Foundation, the school will have access to and contribute to the best practice in teaching, learning, curriculum and pupil support. Importantly, we will retain much of our freedom to run our school as we think best for local children.

The Governing Body believes that the proposal will strengthen Griffin Primary School because being part of The Elliot Foundation will:

- extend the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning;
- enhance the professional development of teaching and support staff;
- enrich our curriculum through partnership working and sharing of resources;
- widen the range of learning opportunities and activities for our pupils;
- help attract and retain the most capable staff;
- secure cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services.

3. How will the children benefit?

In many ways the children will not notice any immediate difference; they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. However, in time the children may notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn, resulting from the greater training opportunities given to teaching staff to innovate and improve the children's education. In particular, they will benefit from the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning between staff in member schools. They will also have wider opportunities to learn new skills and experience new activities.

4. What is an academy?

An academy is a state school that is run by an academy trust, which has been approved by the Department for Education. The academy is publicly funded directly by the Government and is no longer run by the Local Authority. The academy must still comply with laws and regulations for publicly funded schools such as having qualified classroom teachers, offering a broad and balanced curriculum, a fair admissions process and appropriate provision for all pupils.

Academies were first established in 2000, in March 2017 there were over 6,000 academies and this number continues to grow.





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5. What is the Elliot Foundation?

The Elliot Foundation is a charitable multi-academy trust (MAT) specialising in primary academies. The Elliot Foundation currently has 26 open schools which touch the lives of over 8,000 pupils across London, East Anglia and the West Midlands. It is a DfE approved sponsor and has an outstanding track record in enabling both strong and under-performing primary schools to make immediate and sustained improvement.

In 2011-12 75% of The Elliot Foundation schools were either below floor standards or in an OfSTED category. Today, 93% of The Elliot Foundation schools are good or outstanding and none is 'inadequate'. As of December 2016, 14 of out of 26 of The Elliot Foundation open academies have had full OFSTED inspections. Of these 14, 6 (43%) were judged outstanding in all categories (national average 17%) and 10 (71%) were judged to have outstanding leadership (national average 20%).

More information about The Elliot Foundation can be found at their website <http://www.elliottfoundation.co.uk>.

6. How will Griffin Primary School be run?

The Elliot Foundation will have ultimate responsibility for the effective, efficient and compliant running of Griffin Primary School. It has a Board of Trustees that is accountable to the Secretary of State for the performance of The Elliot Foundation member academies.

However, the Board will delegate many aspects of the school's governance and management to the Local Governing Body. The Elliot Foundation will have the right to appoint a proportion of the Governors. There will continue to be parent and staff representatives.

Karen Bastick-Styles will provide Executive Headship. She will be supported by an Elliot Foundation regional education director, who leads a London cluster of 8 other schools.

7. Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?

Our school would still be called Griffin Primary School and our logo and uniform will stay the same. The Elliot Foundation name and logo will appear on signs, documents and other materials.

8. What will be the impact on staff?

Currently, staff at the school are employed by The Odyssey Academy Trust. After conversion, all staff will be employed by The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust. Staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. The Elliot Foundation is committed to ensuring staff have at least the same terms of employment as they would in a maintained school. The Elliot Foundation has a good working relationship with the recognised teacher and support staff trade unions and professional associations. Being part of the Trust will also provide greater opportunities for career progression and development.

9. Will we get more money as an academy?

As an academy Griffin Primary School would receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as received by a Local Authority maintained school.

The school will receive additional funding in the form of the Education Services Grant to cover the costs of the extra requirements of academy status. The Elliot Foundation will provide a number of important services to Griffin Primary School, the cost of which we will contribute towards. Overall the school expects to be more financially secure as a member of The Elliot Foundation.





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10. How will admissions to the school be affected?

The Elliot Foundation will become the admissions authority for Griffin Primary School and we would keep our own admissions policy as now. Any future policy changes would need to be clear and fair and in line with the admissions law and the School Admissions Code. The Local Authority will continue to have responsibility for making sure there are sufficient school places locally and it will coordinate the admissions process for all schools. The application process for parents and carers will remain the same.

11. Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and exclusions change?

No. Responsibilities as an academy in relation to SEND and exclusions will be just the same as they are now.

12. Can a child with an educational health and care plan nominate an academy as their school of choice?

Yes. Parents and carers of children with an educational health and care plan can still nominate an academy as their school of choice and our responsibility to consider their application does not change from now.

13. Are academies inspected by Ofsted?

Ofsted inspects academies in the same way as maintained schools. The performance of all academies is monitored by the Department for Education and if there are signs of deterioration, or other factors are a cause for concern, these could trigger an inspection.

14. Will being an academy as part of The Elliot Foundation change our relationship with other local schools and the Local Authority?

No. Griffin Primary School will continue to be an active member of the local family of primary schools and we will start to work more closely with the other Elliot Foundation schools in London and across the country.

15. What is the process to join The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust?

The Governing Body wants to consult with parents, carers, staff, pupils and the wider community on the proposal for Griffin Primary School to join The Elliot Foundation.

The consultation period will run between Wednesday 10th May 2017 and Tuesday 6th June 2017. There are two information sessions organised. We would like to invite parents and carers to find out more during the parent/ carer meetings on Friday 12th May 2017 at 9.00am at Griffin Primary School. We would like to invite parents, carers and the community to find out more during the information session on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 2.30pm at Griffin Primary School.

The Governing Body will then consider a report on the consultation before making a final decision on the proposal. The school would then transfer to the new arrangement in August 2017, subject to completion of legal and project tasks.

