

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please tell us any comments you wish to make:

Please cut out this section (both sides should be completed) and return to the school:  
**Barrow Hedges Primary School, Harbury Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4LA**



## SUMMARY

The proposal is for Barrow Hedges Primary School to convert to an Academy (most likely on 1st May 2018) as part of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust.



## OUR VISION AND VALUES

The school's vision and values would remain:

### OUR VISION

To be an outstanding primary school which is the school of choice for the local community producing well balanced, ambitious and principled children, primed for the challenges ahead.

### OUR MISSION

At Barrow Hedges we believe that there is no limit to what our pupils can achieve. We nurture the potential talents of all our pupils. Through high achievement and a love of learning, our pupils leave us ready to make a valued contribution to society.

### OUR CORE VALUES

Care, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To develop well balanced children who have a broad range of experiences, a thirst for learning and are well prepared for the next step of their journey.
- Our children will demonstrate resilience, adaptability and preparedness to take risks.
- Our children will have a strong moral compass with a positive attitude towards others.
- We will provide a high quality, coherent, broad and balanced curriculum for 3 to 11 year olds which is delivered and supported by outstanding teaching and wider opportunities.
- We have high aspirations for all of our children.
- We seek to be first class with excellent leadership, well qualified and knowledgeable staff who are committed to improvement.
- We strive to provide a stimulating, nurturing environment in which to learn, work and play safely.
- We see parents, carers and others in the local community as integral to the life of the school and will seek to involve them as much as possible in our work.
- We will ensure that our resources are managed efficiently and deployed where they give maximum benefit to the children.



PROPOSAL TO CONVERT  
**BARROW HEDGES PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
TO ACADEMY STATUS



# PROPOSAL TO CONVERT **BARROW HEDGES PRIMARY SCHOOL** TO ACADEMY STATUS

## WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

You may be aware that due to continued cuts in school funding and the changing landscape of school provision many schools are having to consider different options for the future development of their school in order to provide an excellent education for all children that is sustainable in the long term.

One of these options is to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which allows excellent collaboration and access to best practice across the schools in the Trust. Joining a Trust will give us access to services and support in collaboration with other schools. This will give us the advantage of economy of scale efficiencies to help support our budget. On a day to day basis, there will be no noticeable change in the running of the school.

During the last academic year the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team sought legal advice and had conversations with other schools in the Borough to help decide the best route forward for Barrow Hedges. Governors have decided that the most appropriate route would be for Barrow Hedges Primary School to join Cirrus Primary Academy Trust.

We will continue to work with all our stakeholders to ensure everyone is kept informed as we go through this process. If you have any queries please come along to one of our consultation meetings detailed in this leaflet.

We appreciate your continued support as we embark on this exciting new journey to move the school forward in these challenging times, whilst ensuring we continue to be the best we can be.

*Mrs L Wood* **Headteacher**

## THE TRUST

If Barrow Hedges Primary School becomes an Academy, it will be run by Cirrus Primary Academy Trust. The Trust is a charitable company and has Directors, who are accountable to the Secretary of State for any schools that join the Trust.

There are currently four academies in the Trust - Avenue Primary Academy, Rushy Meadow Primary Academy, Stanley Park Infants' School and Kingsley Primary Academy in Croydon

Each academy has its own Local Governing Board (accountable to the Trust board) with representation from parents through parent governors, staff through staff governors and the local community through co-opted governors.

Details of the Trust are available at [www.cirrustrust.uk](http://www.cirrustrust.uk)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

We really want to hear what parents, staff and the community think about the proposed conversion to an Academy. Consultation events are planned below:

**Tuesday 30th January at 9.15am**

**Tuesday 30th January at 7.00pm**

Your comments will help us work out if our decision is indeed the best way to move forward. The final date for comments is **9th February**.

## YOUR VIEWS

We welcome your views on our proposal. If you would like to contribute, please complete both sides of this cut out section and return it to the school.

Are you a:

- Parent or carer of a pupil at Barrow Hedges Primary School?
- Member of staff at Barrow Hedges Primary School?
- Local resident?
- Other?

Do you agree that the school become an academy and join Cirrus Primary Academy Trust?

- Yes
- No
- I have not made up my mind yet



## ACADEMY CONVERSION FAQs

### WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

An academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the local authority and receives its funding direct from central government.

We are proposing to become an academy as part of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust. This means that we will be part of an academy group comprising Avenue Primary Academy, Rushy Meadow Primary Academy, Stanley Park Infants' School and Kingsley Primary Academy (Croydon).

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN ACADEMY?

In the school's opinion the benefits are numerous:

- **academies are independent of local authority control** - this means that academies have more freedom about how they conduct themselves.
- **academies receive their funding direct from central government** - this means that academies receive more funding because none is retained by the local authority for the provision of central services.
- **academies have more freedom over the curriculum taught** - this means that academies do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider appropriate for their pupils.

- **academies can set their own pay and conditions of service for their staff** - academies have the freedom to alter the pay and conditions of their staff (subject to normal employment law protections for staff) and so can provide staff with better pay and conditions than previously, which helps to retain the very best staff.

### ARE THERE ANY DISADVANTAGES TO BECOMING AN ACADEMY?

Cirrus Primary Academy Trust will be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety, and property maintenance. However, as mentioned above, academies receive more funding from central government to help them meet these additional costs, and in any event, Cirrus already deals with these matters for the other schools in the MAT.

### WILL THE ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS CHANGE?

Barrow Hedges already deals with its own admission arrangements for Nursery. As an academy, our admissions would be dealt with through the Trust and we will still be bound by the national Admissions Code and Admissions Appeals Code.

## CONTACT US

Please use the methods shown above to give us your feedback. If you wish to contact the school, please telephone us on **020 8643 4428** (speak to the Headteacher) or email **[office@barrowhedges.com](mailto:office@barrowhedges.com)**

