

Roselands Infant School

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Roselands & Stafford
Federation

Stafford Junior School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kyra Siddall-Ward

Heads of School: Mrs Simone Jackson/Mrs Carol Wallis

14 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

PROPOSAL FOR ROSELANDS INFANT SCHOOL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS WITHIN THE CAVENDISH LEARNING TRUST

I am writing to you as part of the formal consultation about the proposal for Roselands Infant School to become an academy. As you will know from previous letters and virtual presentations, the Interim Executive Board (IEB) has been considering the future of Roselands Infant School since the Ofsted inspection of Stafford Junior School earlier this year. As an outcome of this inspection the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) set an expectation that Stafford Junior School would become an academy as Ofsted had judged that the school required Special Measures.

I wrote to you on the 1 July 2020, informing you that the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) had decided that the Cavendish Learning Trust (CLT) would be the trust that Stafford Junior would join as an academy. In that letter I also explained that as the Roselands-Stafford Federation share staff, governance and a range of policies and the whole federation is currently working very effectively with CLT, the IEB would be consulting with staff, parents and the wider community on Roselands Infant School becoming an academy with CLT. We are, therefore, now formally consulting with you about the proposal for Roselands Infants to become an academy within the Cavendish Learning Trust.

Becoming part of the CLT would enable Roselands Infants to continue to work collaboratively with both Stafford Junior and Cavendish School. Working in this way over the last few months has seen some exciting and highly effective benefits, including the introduction of an engaging and exciting curriculum across both Roselands and Stafford, the introduction of a robust reading programme of study underpinned by phonics from early years to Year 6 and common approaches to positive and inclusive behaviour management.

More information about what this proposal means for Roselands Infants and for all the children in the federation is attached to this letter. Details of how to comment or ask questions are provided at the end of this letter and in the attached consultation response document. There is also a separate leaflet about Cavendish Learning Trust. Please do let us know what you think about this proposal.

We hope that you will continue to give the IEB, the executive headteacher and all the staff of the federation your support in driving our schools forward.

If you have any questions about the proposal, please attend one of the virtual consultation meetings that are being held via Zoom, when members of the IEB and representatives of the Cavendish Learning Trust will say more about this proposal. The virtual meetings will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 30 September at 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Monday 5 October at 10.30am – 12.00pm

Tuesday 6 October at 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 7 October at 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Please email consultation@roselands-stafford.org to indicate which meeting you would like to attend by the 23rd of September. We will then send you a link to enable you to join the meeting. There will be a limited number of places at each meeting, so it is essential that you book your space. It would be very helpful when you book your place if you could also give an indication of any questions you would like answered at the meeting.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please send any questions you might have before the first meeting to the consultation@roselands-stafford.org and we will arrange a response.

Otherwise, if you have any comments you would like to make about Roselands becoming an academy within the Cavendish Learning Trust, please send them, using the form attached, to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB by Wednesday 14 October - either by hard copy in an envelope marked "Roselands Academy Consultation" or by email to: consultation@roselands-stafford.org

Yours sincerely



Penny Gaunt
Chair of the Roselands-Stafford Federation IEB

FURTHER INFORMATION

This document provides additional information about conversion to academy status. If you have other questions which are not answered here, or in the leaflet about Cavendish Learning Trust, please come to one of the virtual meetings:

Wednesday 30 September at 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Monday 5 October at 10.30am – 12.00pm

Tuesday 6 October at 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 7 October at 1.30pm – 3.00pm

when representatives of the IEB and Cavendish Learning Trust will be present. If you are not able to attend a meeting, please write to or email consultation@roselands-stafford.org and we will arrange a response. Notes of the meetings and answers to any frequently asked questions will be put on the Roselands website.

Attached to this document is a form that asks for your views on this proposal. Please return it by 14 October to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB – either by hard copy to the school in an envelope marked “Roselands Academy Consultation” or by email to: consultation@roselands-stafford.org

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded independent schools that are not managed by a local authority. Once converted, academies are run by an academy trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Academies are, therefore, state maintained schools available free to all children. They have to follow the same rules as all other state-funded schools over admissions, pupils with special educational needs and exclusions. They are still inspected by Ofsted.

What impact will this have on Roselands Infant school?

The IEB believe this will have a very positive impact and we are confident the relationships with Stafford Junior and Cavendish School and other colleagues in the trust will enable the current very effective joint working between the two federation schools and Cavendish Learning Trust to continue.

The trust would propose to change the school uniform by introducing a new blue jumper, a new white PE sports shirt and a new blue book bag/backpack from September 2021. To assist parents and carers financially, Cavendish Learning Trust will be providing, for each pupil, one blue jumper/cardigan with the Federation logo, either a blue book bag or backpack and one white PE sports shirt. Pupils with parents/carers in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

will be supported with buying a second jumper/ cardigan with the Federation logo.

The Cavendish Learning Trust will not make any other major changes. There will be no change to the school name, the admissions arrangements or to the times of the school day or terms.

Why join Cavendish Learning Trust?

As Stafford Junior is becoming part of CLT it makes absolute sense for Roselands Infants, the other school in the current federation to join the same trust. In so doing, the children at Roselands will gain all the benefits of being part of the equivalent of an all through primary school whilst it continues to maintain its current very positive and supportive ethos and culture. The staff will also benefit from the continuation of the professional development opportunities that they are currently accessing and responding to very positively.

Each school in the trust will have parity of esteem with other partners, and be part of a trust that respects the traditions and identities of schools, whilst being committed to mutual support in pursuit of high standards for all children and good professional development and promotion opportunities for all staff.

How will belonging to the Trust affect the quality of education for children in our school?

We believe a group of schools working closely together in partnership and agreeing to pool resources as well as support each other professionally can achieve much more for its children than schools working either alone, or in looser partnerships which do not involve as much sharing of resources or expertise. The aim of the trust at all times is to improve the experience of children and young people in classrooms. These values are entirely consistent with the initial rationale for establishing the Roselands-Stafford Federation.

When will these changes take place?

We want to know what parents and the local community think about this proposal and there is some legal and other work to be done to give effect to the change, which the trust will support with and which the government funds. If all goes well, we anticipate conversion on the 1 April 2021.

How can I find out more?

Please attend one of the virtual meetings where members of the IEB and representatives of the Cavendish Learning Trust will say more about the proposal. If you are not able to attend a meeting, and you have a question that you would like answered, please write to Penny Gaunt at Roselands Infant School in an envelope marked Academy Questions or email consultation@roselands-stafford.org

Any comments?

If you have any comments on the proposal for Roselands Infant School to become an academy within the Cavendish Learning Trust please send the form attached to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB by Wednesday 14 October – either by hard copy in an envelope marked “Roselands Academy Consultation” or by email to: consultation@roselands-stafford.org

The IEB will consider all the responses we receive and will feed back on the next steps.