

# Greystones Primary School

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25.04.24

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that throughout Sheffield, some schools are 'maintained schools' (i.e. they are under Local Authority control) and some schools are in 'academy trusts' (sometimes known as MATs). In the past decade or so, reduced funding for local authorities has affected their capacity to support maintained schools while academy trusts have become a more established and widespread way for schools to be financed and organised.

Currently, Greystones is a maintained school.

In Sheffield a majority of primary and secondary children are now taught in schools that are part of Academy Trusts. Schools in academy trusts have the opportunity to bid for more funding for capital projects and operating within a group of schools means that budgets can stretch further. Local Authority schools are no longer feeling the same benefits as their numbers reduce.

A year ago, Governors at Greystones set up a working party to find out more about the current advantages and drawbacks of academisation for our school and to consider potential MAT options available to us should we want to join one.

MATs come in a variety of sizes and they have a good deal of freedom regarding their priorities and organisation. Our Governors are aware that joining a MAT would be a significant decision and they want to ensure that all decisions have the best interests of children, staff and the community in mind. It is important that the Greystones ethos and values sustain throughout any change in status.

As part of this exploratory process, our Governors are currently meeting with a number of local Trusts in order to gain information and to help us get a feel for what could be a 'best fit' for Greystones, and how this would compare to remaining a maintained school. We wanted to let you know that this informal process is taking place. We are at an early and exploratory phase with an open mind about the various options available to Greystones, and we will continue to keep families informed.

Before joining any Trust, schools conduct a consultation with their community, to understand parent and carer perspectives regarding that particular Trust. It is important to Greystones Governors that the views of our families are considered if the school were to decide to proceed further with any particular Trust. We will let you know and seek your views if and when we reach that point.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, our governors can be contacted via the [enquiries@greystonesprimary.com](mailto:enquiries@greystonesprimary.com) email address.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

**Tanveer Naqvi**  
Chair of Governors

**Sinead Gaffney**  
Headteacher