

Elvington Parent Academy Consultation 10.11.16

4 parents in attendance

Chair of Governors, Headteacher, Deputy headteacher, two Staff governors, foundation governor, Parent governor.

Questions raised:

Funding – What does it mean? Education funding agency rather than LA?

Explained top slicing/ all to MAT then distributed. We'd also get the funding direct from the EFA rather than going via the LA.

Maximising benefits - Will it impact on the performance of our teaching roles?

No staff will remain in each setting. Moving forward shared appointments can be created but we do not envisage our teaching staff moving to another school within the MAT e.g specialist support or by request/agreement.

Government allocate funding now. If the LA takes the top slice and it's their discretion how much

What freedom would a MAT have to allocate money?

Are you going to replicate the same formula for funding as what is currently in place from the government, LA?

This is yet to be formalised.

A memorandum of understanding is yet to be developed by the schools that decide to go ahead. Each school's funding can be calculated on the basis of student numbers. Schools would be expected to get their share of the funding, minus any agreed top slice, unless funding is allocated on a different basis for a particular reason e.g short term support for a particular issue. This is in line with current LA arrangements.

If you are part of a MAT which allocates you less funding than now, then what would happen?

See above.

I can see the benefits of economies of scales have schools considered the benefits to risk management? Will something be in place for this?

This would be part of any conversion discussions/agreements.

Would the MAT be set up to reduce the risk of say an influx of SEN and how it impacts school?

As above although as now much of this would still be done through individual school funding.

Contracts for new staff going forward?

Yes they could change in the future for new staff, but we would still want to offer contracts that would attract the best teachers to ensure we continue to provide the best education.

Do you feel frustrated as the headteacher by this?

No. I honestly believe this is in the best interest for our school and our pupils. We want to build on an existing partnership that is already highly successful, rather than be forced to work with schools we perhaps have less in common with. We also believe it is important that we join a MAT from the onset where we are able to ensure we move forward in the best way that will serve Elvington.

Is there a risk we could form a single academy and then not join the MAT?

No it is our intention to work alongside other schools in partnership and believe there are significant strengths in moving forward together. Forming a single academy would not be an option for a school of our size as it would not gain approval. Even applications from large single secondary schools are currently being turned down. School to school partnership support work is now required on the basis of a number in excess of 1000 students.

Are we the smallest school in the cluster?

No, Naburn and Escrick are smaller.

Meeting ended at 6:40pm