



All Saints CE First School
School Lane, Church Leigh, Stoke-on-Trent. ST10 4SR

Tel: 01889 502289

Email: office@allsaints-leigh.staffs.sch.uk

Thursday 30th March 2017

Dear Parents

Uttoxeter Learning Trust: Conversion to an Academy

You will know that the school has recently been consulting on converting to become an academy. This was planned for the 1st February 2017 for first 5 "founder" schools of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust Multi-Academy Trust. We are one of these.

However, in January we decided to delay the start date to 1st April 2017. This is because we had not received figures from the Department for Education to enable us to plan our budget for the following months. The problem was caused by the continued absence of the DfE project lead.

The school has since received a draft DfE budget allocation if it is an academy and it's Local Authority budget both of which are significantly lower (10%) than last year. This is due in part to a lower number of children in school and nursery and also a lower number of children attracting additional educational funding. The other pressure is that although funding has not been cut in real terms, it also hasn't increased to take into account inflationary costs resulting in an extremely tight budget for the forthcoming year. Staffordshire is one of the poorest funded counties in the country and would have seen some benefits from the School's National Funding Formula that should have been introduced this year. Sadly, this has been put back for further consultation and the school will not benefit from some increase in funding this year.

Both Mrs Flanagan and I have been working tirelessly to work through the two scenarios to maintain as much provision in school as possible whilst making ends meet. This has been the most challenging budget we have ever worked with and we meet with finance governors tonight to finalize it.

It has become apparent that in order to ensure financial security for the school moving forward, a decision to further delay the conversion needs to be taken while we await the National Funding Formula to be introduced. Therefore, we shall not now convert to academy status until 2018. At this point we think the school will be in a stronger position to move away from the annual budget we receive as an LA school to a monthly budget we would receive as an academy. We are confident that early next year we will have the adequate cash flow to make this change thus reducing the financial risk to the school.

This has been discussed with the DfE and members of the trust board who have agreed this is the best course of action. Hutchinson Memorial CE First School in Checkley have also been placed in a similar position and they too have taken the same decision to further delay conversion.



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Thomas Alleynes High School, Windsor Park Middle School and Picknalls First School will convert on the 1st April 2017 so please look out for news of the launch of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust Multi-Academy Trust in the press next week. We wish them every success and look forward to becoming part of this as soon as is possible. In the meantime, we will continue to work very closely with all schools in the Uttoxeter partnership to ensure continuity, progression and achievement for all our children.

Kind regards

A Kenny

A Kenny
Headteacher



Dyslexia Friendly
Entry Level

