



Mill Lane
Batley
West Yorkshire
WF17 6EG

Phone: 01924 477544
E-mail: office@mill-lane.org.uk
Website: www.mill-lane.org.uk

Head Teacher: Miss C Barlow

Date 4 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL FOR MILL LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND JOIN A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

For some time, the Governing Body of Mill Lane Primary School have been carefully considering the school's future in a fast-changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape. Senior staff and the Governors have spent time researching and undertaking due diligence, looking at the options for the school moving forward.

After a long process, we have decided that the best option to explore further, building on the success of the school, is to look at extending our partnerships, become an academy and join a new Multi Academy Trust initially with three other Kirklees schools;

- Birkby Junior School
- Moldgreen Community Primary School
- Dalton School

The MAT application has been submitted by the three schools named above to found a new Multi Academy Trust to be known as Industrious Education Trust (IET). The MAT application we hope will receive approval in autumn 24.

Together we will form a small but growing Trust which will also comprise of like-minded and strong schools who are committed to a truly inclusive education for all our young people, which sees them progress from 2-19 successfully. Our vision is to establish a trust, dedicated to finding collaborative solutions in ensuring excellence for all children and the foundations for life-long learning.

Beyond our school there are currently two more schools considering exploring academy status and joining Industrious Education Trust. The remaining two schools are:

1. North Huddersfield Trust School
2. Ashbrow School

North Huddersfield Trust School has already started the consultation phase in October and it is envisaged that the other school will also commence consultation in November.

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Quality Standard 2011
GOLD AWARD



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We believe that by working together with other successful organisations, we will be able to further develop the inclusive, inspirational and innovative education that we currently provide. To academise and join together is a big step but one that we believe will create the foundations for continued exceptional education in the future for all young people in our community. Our vision is to build a trust that best meets Kirklees needs whilst also providing the expertise and strength of being part of a bigger organisation.

There are clear benefits to academisation for us as a school at a local and regional level. Together with others, we will be able to work more closely together, sharing services to provide a high-quality offer, right across the key stages. We have already seen the benefits of this through partnership working.

In addition to building strong community partnerships for our locality, we will also be joining a larger, stronger family spanning the whole Kirklees region. Together we will be able to access expertise that a larger organisation can afford to support us continuing to improve the experience for all our young people. We will also be able to harness our expertise and knowledge and share and support this with other schools, extending our influence across the region for the benefit of all young people.

This is a proposed partnership that seeks to preserve the identity and culture in each individual school. There are no plans to make radical changes at Mill Lane Primary School. We will retain our individual school name, Headteacher, uniform, curriculum offer and staff.

Our local communities are at the heart of our decision making and therefore as part of the Governors' due diligence, we want to know what all our stakeholders' views are about this proposed partnership and the development of the new Multi-Academy Trust which will be known as Industrious Education Trust.

To support you in understanding the proposals in greater detail and have your questions answered, information is available on the school's own website <https://www.mill-lane.org.uk/> under the section 'Academy Consultation' which also includes a proposed timeline and a link to the following website: www.industriouseducation.org.uk

Governors have now entered the consultation phase and aim to engage parents, carers, staff, pupils, trade unions and the wider community in discussions regarding the proposal for Mill Lane Primary School to convert to academy status and join Industrious Education Trust (subject to DfE approval).

The consultation period will run from **4 November to 29 November 2024** inclusive.

After the consultation, the Governing Body will evaluate the findings at their next full meeting.

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We would like to invite you to attend one of the following meetings at the school to find out more on either of the dates provided here:

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 17:00 – 18:00

or

Thursday 14th November 2024 at 9:00 – 10:00 (*this is joint parent / community meeting*)

The parent and carer session will be an opportunity to ask questions about academy status and how this will affect our school specifically. In addition to myself, in my role as Headteacher, there will be other members of the senior team present as well as Governors. All of us will be available to talk to you personally and listen to your thoughts, ideas or concerns.

Also attached to this letter are some FAQs, which you may find of interest. There are many ways you can have your say and ensure your views are heard. This can be by:

- completing an online feedback survey provided on the school website; a link will be made available on the school website on 13 November giving you an opportunity to find out more and read the details we are sharing today.
- emailing any questions and feedback to hello@gailkhanassociates.co.uk (*Gail Khan Associates are supporting school through the consultation process and collating all feedback*)
- asking questions at any of our meetings

This decision affects every member of our community, and it is important that together we all enter into an open discussion to ensure that the decisions made about the future of the Mill Lane Primary School, is the right one for each and every child in our school.

Yours sincerely

Ms Christine Barlow
Headteacher
Mill Lane Primary School

Mrs Anisa Iltaf
Chair of Governors
Mill Lane Primary School

Cc: Susan Davis, named CEO, IET

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