



Highgate, Helpringham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 0RD
Email: enquiries@helpringham.lincs.sch.uk Telephone: 01529 421676
Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Leighton

22nd January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to you to find out your views on an exciting opportunity for Helpringham Primary School.

Recently, the Helpringham Primary School Governing Body have been meeting to consider future options for our school as it is very important to us that our school continues to be the best it can be for our children and the community we serve. It is also important that the school has a secure future, and we feel that joining a wider family of schools in a multi academy trust (MAT) is the best option for us.

We have looked carefully at a number of options, including remaining with the local authority, or joining an established MAT, and after several meetings and gathering information we have decided that joining an established MAT is best for us. We believe that joining Voyage Education Partnership will bring many advantages and will support us to continue to thrive and offer the best education for our pupils.

Voyage Education Partnership is a well-established MAT based in Boston and there are nine academies in the trust that are based in Boston and Spalding. Joining Voyage Education Partnership will provide our school and our pupils with lots of new opportunities. This will enable our staff team to collaborate and network closely with colleagues in other schools and this will have a positive impact on teaching and learning. Voyage Education Partnership can also provide a wide range of central services that will help us operationally and we will be more efficient in the way we work.

As a Governing Body we have not taken this decision lightly and we are confident that our values and vision match that of Voyage Education Partnership and we will continue to be a village school who are firmly rooted in our local community. You can find out more about Voyage Education Partnership by visiting their website www.voyage-education.org

We hope that you too will find this an exciting development for our school but know you may have questions about how this change will impact on your child and the school. We have added below a number of questions and answers that may help.

We would now like to consider your views before taking the next step to formally start proceedings to join Voyage Education Partnership. Please could any comments be sent to our Clerk of Governors, Mrs P Penistan, via the school office for our consideration by 1st March 2024.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Waite

Chair of Governors

Mrs Leighton

Headteacher

Frequently asked questions

What is a MAT?

A MAT is a multi academy trust, a group of schools who work together to improve standards and support one another for the benefit of the whole school community. The academies share in common the members and the board of trustees that govern them. We will be part of Voyage Education Partnership alongside Fishtoft Primary Academy, Pioneers Primary Academy, Staniland Academy, Carlton Road Academy, Haven High Academy, Boston Park Academy, Old Leake Primary Academy, Wygate Primary Academy and Gosberton Academy.

Why did you choose Voyage Education Partnership over other multi academy trusts?

We liked that Voyage Education Partnership are a local Trust based in Boston and Spalding and put learners at the centre of all they do. The MAT can offer a lot of central services that will help us, and they have a very strong offer of education support that our staff will benefit from being part of. We liked that Voyage enable schools to retain their own identity and want us to continue with our strong community links. Voyage Education Partnership want us to continue to work with other local schools and partnerships and be a popular and successful village primary school.

What changes will my child and I notice from Helpringham Primary School joining a MAT?

It is unlikely you will notice any big changes at first as the name, uniform and staff will all remain the same. The benefits from a teaching perspective will be that good practice and support will be shared across the MAT and operational functions like building management, health and safety and IT will be supported more.

Will there be any change to the admissions policy?

We intend to keep the current arrangements which are determined by the local authority and keep in line with any changes in the future.

Will the uniform change once we join a MAT?

No, there will be no changes to the uniform.

Will the school holiday dates change once we join a MAT?

No, we will maintain the dates published for this academic year and next year too.

When will this all happen?

We are aiming to officially join Voyage Education Partnership from 1st September 2024.