

***What is an Academy?**

An Academy is a publicly funded independent school that operates outside Local Authority (LA) control. Academies receive their funding directly from central government, rather than through an LA. The Government describes them as independent, state funded schools.

Who are Cockburn Multi-academy Trust?

The Cockburn Multi-academy Trust is led by Mr David Gurney, Executive Headteacher, and its Trust Board. They are a charitable Trust who already run Cockburn School and the Cockburn John Charles Academy which are Secondary. The Trust has also been approved to open a Free School within Leeds and has also had approval for another Primary School to join the Trust.

The Trust would be responsible for:

- Compliance with company and charity law.
- Compliance with the obligations set out in the Funding Agreement with the DfE.
- Ensuring the quality of education provision.
- Challenging and monitoring the performance of the Academy.
- Employing the staff of the Trust.
- Managing the Trusts finances and property.

Why is the school considering becoming an Academy?

As central services provided by the Local Authority are going to be considerably reduced in future, schools are being urged to give serious consideration to pursuing conversion to Academy status. The governing body feels that it should actively pursue this conversion process rather than have a conversion model imposed at a future date

should this become an issue; however it will consider all its options. The Governing Body believes becoming part of Cockburn Multi-academy Trust will provide several advantages:

- The School would gain greater independence so that it could closely meet the learning needs of its intake.
- The School would work in close partnership with neighbouring school leaders who are extremely successful in bringing high standards to their schools.
- The staff would have the opportunity to work with teachers within the Trust.
- Support staff will be able to develop their skills further, both through joint training opportunities and by working in close partnership with their peers in nearby schools.
- A well-coordinated approach to learning across the Trust.
- Increased opportunities for pupils to benefit from new experiences and facilities

What would change at the school?

- The school would be known as **Broomfield School**.
- There will be a number of educational benefits as the Academy will be able to devise its own curriculum to best meet the needs of our children and is also able to be more selective about the educational initiatives with which it is involved
- Funding will be allocated to the Academy rather than to the Local Authority first. This will mean that the Academy is better placed to allocate resources to meet the needs of our children.
- The school leadership team i.e. Senior Leaders and the Local Governing Body will

be part of the Cockburn Multi-academy Trust rather than the Local Authority.

- The Trust and the Academy would be liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety and property maintenance.

What will stay the same?

- Overall very little will change. Working conditions, expectations and procedures for staff on a day-to-day basis would be very much the same.
- The school will still be run by a Local Governing Body.
- We are committed to our inclusive approach.
- Uniform
- School day and terms
- Pupils will still require an EHCP

How will admissions work?

Academies are subject to the same School Admissions Code as other state schools. This sets the rules for fair admissions and prevents schools from selecting on the basis of their ability. Academies also remain part of the Local Authority application system, however they become part of their own admission authority and as such they set their own admissions policy and criteria for awarding oversubscribed places.

How accountable are Academies?

Academies are still subject to inspections by the schools' inspectorate, Ofsted, in the same way as other schools are. Academies SAT's results will continue to be published as they are at present, alongside those of other state schools in league tables. Academies are accountable directly to the Secretary of State for Education

What does the conversion process entail?

An Academy Order has been issued by the Secretary of State for Education and the Governing Body will vote to decide whether or not to convert. The final stage is the signing of the Funding Agreement. This process can take 3-4 months to complete. The Academies Act 2010 removes the requirement for Local Authorities to agree to the creation of an Academy.

Would the school continue to work in partnership with the Local Authority and other schools?

Yes we will benefit not only from working with our current partners but also other Academies within the Leeds area.

What would be the structure of the curriculum?

Our current curriculum is constantly being reviewed and updated. The benefit of moving towards Academy status is that we have the freedom to ensure that our curriculum remains relevant, creative and engaging. We would deliver a diverse and challenging curriculum which will increase educational opportunities for students and it will be tailored in such a way that can not only meet their needs but stretch their achievements. We will look to diversify the extra-curricular activities on offer.

**On behalf of the
Broomfield SILC Governing Body
thank you for taking the time to
engage with this important issue.**

Broomfield SILC aims to ensure that we always offer the best for our children and we give them a wide range of opportunities in school.

It is proposed that the school becomes an Academy and we are keen to hear your views.

This leaflet aims to address some of the questions you may have about academy conversion and what it really means.

Please contact the following at the school for any further information:
Naomi Hammill
Sharon Crowther

Broomfield SILC

ACADEMY CONVERSION CONSULTATION INFORMATION

