



CALLOW END C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Academy Conversion Meeting



Held at Callow End Primary School
Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.00pm

	<p>Attendance Sarah Wilkinson (SW), Suzanne Mealings (SM), Dave Stephens (DS), Ginny Sharp (GS), Philip Betts (PB), Kaye Barter (KB), Meg Allsop (MA), Oliver Parker (OP), Karen Surrall(KS) from the Diocese, parents and carers of current pupils.</p>
SM	<p>Thanked everyone for attending and explained that the meeting was to discuss Academy status and where Callow End are with making their decision. SM then took everyone through her presentation which can be found on the school website.</p>
KS	<p>Explained that she was here from the Diocese to discuss joining the DOWMAT (Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust) and took the meeting through her presentation which can be found on the school website.</p> <p>KS, SW and SM then asked if anyone had any questions and the following discussion took place</p>
Q1	<p>If parents are unhappy with the school and call on the Governing body to make changes, is there influence diluted by being part of a bigger organisation?</p> <p>SM – No, Governors autonomy remains the same and this is one of the reasons the GB have chosen the DOWMAT rather than other MAT's. The make up of the Governing Body and the strategic influences remain the same.</p>
Q2	<p>Can other GB's influence the school?</p> <p>SM – No</p>
Q3	<p>Could the Diocese turn down Callow End's application to join?</p> <p>KS – They could if the schools financial position was in a deficit, which it is not at the moment or if the DFE intervened.</p>
Q4	<p>What services do the school feel that they are not receiving from the LA.</p> <p>SM – The school pays an amount to the local authority each year which should cover any assistance needed with HR, Payroll, property services, school improvement support, however this support has dwindled recently and many of these services are now outsourced and more expensive. The biggest difference has been the lack of support for the school around improvement plans and this is one of the reasons the DOWMAT is of interest to Callow End who guarantee at least 6 visits from a school improvement advisor per year. KS explained that this is part of the agreement that the schools sign in to and the only way this would change would be through consultation meaning this level of support would be consistent.</p>
Q5	<p>How is the DOWMAT funded?</p> <p>KS said that 5% of the schools budget would be paid to the DowMat to cover the services.</p>
Q6	<p>How long is the process to join?</p> <p>KS – Can be done in as little as 4 months it is dependent on the school and delays from the DFE (Department for Education) sometimes the legalities for some schools can make the process longer.</p>

Q7	<p>How will Callow End's relationship with other schools that are not in the MAT change.</p> <p>KS explained that relationships with other schools will continue as strongly as they do now. By joining the MAT relationships with new schools will grow. Callow End school will not need to change its name, uniform, ethos, values or day to day running if the school does not want to. The children at the school will not notice anything different on a day to day basis</p>
Q8	<p>Who makes the final decision?</p> <p>SM – The governing body will make the final decision, it has been on the agenda at every meeting for a while and the governors have been given lots of information meaning they could evaluate the best route for the school in their opinion. The GB welcomes any feedback or questions from parents, carers and the wider community. The next GB meeting is on Wednesday 22nd March and the decision will be made there to pursue this route further or not.</p>
Q9	<p>Will the staff jobs be safe?</p> <p>KS – The staff will Tupe across to the DOWMAT and all current Terms and conditions will remain the same.</p> <p>Once we have joined is it possible to leave?</p>
Q10	<p>KS – The school would be signed in to a 7 year funding agreement however if the MAT was failing the school would have an option to appeal and be able to leave early</p>