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Dear Parents,

## Consultation for Howes Primary School to join a Multi Academy

Those of you who have had children at Howes Primary in the last academic year know that the Governors of Howes Primary School have been giving serious consideration to joining the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust (MAT). We were pleased that some of you were able to attend the information sessions put on during the 2017 Summer Term.

After careful consideration, the Governors of Howes have decided that joining a Multi Academy Trust is the best course of action as it provides long-term security to our school. The decision is subject to this consultation, providing there are no substantial objections raised by the parents. Below is a brief explanation of what a Multi Academy Trust is and why we believe that this is the correct course of action for Howes Primary School.

An academy is a state school, funded directly by the Department for Education, not the local authority. A Multi Academy Trust is a group of academies joining together for the benefit of all. A Multi Academy Trust is run by a Board of Trustees overseeing the governing bodies of the partner schools. More information about academies can be found at [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies).

Howes would continue to have its own identity and governing body but would have the benefits of being part of a larger group of primary and secondary schools that work together to create the best possible opportunities and outcomes for the children and families in this community, all the way from pre-school to leaving at 18.

There are three key visions for this MAT that underpin why we want to consult with you.

***1 – A world-class Primary and Secondary Curriculum designed by the schools involved that maximizes opportunities and progress across every year group and ensures all the learning builds to create the best possible school leavers of the future.***

All the schools involved work together to look at every element of learning, transition and skills progression to write and deliver a unique curriculum for this community.

***2 – A shared resource that enriches learning opportunities and creates better facilities and enrichment opportunities for all our learners.***

All the schools would look to ensure every purchasing and resourcing opportunity was maximized to get the best value for money for all the learners.

***3 – Primary and Secondary expertise that ensures that the learning, teaching and leadership opportunities continually improve.***

A school is only as good as the quality of lessons delivered every day to your children. We would work as schools to ensure the best possible teaching was being delivered daily to your children.

These are some of the key areas of reassurance that we would wish to offer current and prospective parents:

- Staff and governors are strongly committed to continuing to provide the best education for our children.
- The school would not become selective.
- As an academy, we would be committed to maintaining our current admissions policy. This means that the catchment area and entry criteria would remain the same.
- The ethos of our school as one where everyone is valued, their strengths are recognised and learning is of prime importance will remain.
- We have a history of working collaboratively with other schools in several different partnerships. We intend to build on those partnerships and are committed to continued positive working relationships with Coventry Schools and the Local Authority.

Parents are already represented on the governing body, but the governors are keen to hear the views of the wider parental community and so you are invited to give your opinion by responding to this letter. We welcome responses in writing, or through Miss Cooke or Mrs Bolland. If you wish to make your views known, please do so by Tuesday 17th October 2017.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely  
Kshama Shore and Sue Roberts  
(Co-chairs of Governors)

