

# BELLEVILLE GOVERNORS

9 May 2011

## Letter from the Chair Kate Amis

### Consultation on Academy Status

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

The governing body held an extraordinary meeting on 28 April to consider the current government policy to encourage outstanding schools to convert to Academy status. The aim of the meeting was to consider whether becoming an Academy would help achieve our vision for Belleville School and assist in our relentless drive to improve the quality of education offered to children attending our school now and in the future.

The meeting followed much discussion and research by governors which has included three full governors meetings, a workshop for staff and visits to other schools and discussions with heads and governors who have been on the same journey. Governors have drawn on their professional expertise in the fields of business and education to measure the benefits and possible downsides associated with converting.

Following careful consideration, the majority of governors believe there are enough potential benefits in becoming an Academy that we should begin the consultation process. No final decision will be taken until governors have taken into account the views expressed during the consultation by parents, staff, future parents and others who are involved in the school.

We have prepared a Questions and Answer (Q&A) document which outlines the reasons behind our viewpoint. This document is being sent home with this letter, is available on the school's website ([www.belleville-school.org.uk](http://www.belleville-school.org.uk)) and extra copies can be picked up from the school office.

***The governing body believes that Academy status will provide us with the best means within the current education system to ensure all children at Belleville School continue to receive the best possible education.***

A summary of the key points behind this statement is outlined overleaf.

It is crucially important to state that Belleville will remain a local, community primary school, for all children in our area – just as it is now. We would anticipate very little change in the day to day running of the school as experienced by parents and children if we did wish to convert.

We ask you to read the attached information and talk to governors about any questions or concerns you may have. There are a number of staff governors and parent governors, many of whom are in the playground regularly throughout the week. Other governors will be available during Governors Week (6-10 June) and at the meetings we have arranged.

## GOVERNING BODY

### Chair of Governors

Kate Amis

### Head Teacher

John Grove

### Community Governors

Martin Beaver

Sue Harries

Rebecca Hossain

Tessa Willy

### Local Education Authority Governors

Kate Amis

Jennifer Browne

Paul McGill

Emma Waterfall

### Parent Governors

Barbara Downie

Eileen Kiernan

Brian Ledbetter

Julia Oldham

Gemma Ronte

Fiona Wilkins

### Staff Governors

Sarah Atherton

Geraldine Burke

Elen McFadyen

## CONTACT

The Chair of Governors  
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Belleville Road,  
London SW11 6PR

[www.belleville-school.org.uk](http://www.belleville-school.org.uk)

email:

[governor@belleville.wands-worth.sch.uk](mailto:governor@belleville.wands-worth.sch.uk)

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To summarise the key points of the Question & Answer (Q&A) document, the Governors believe that Belleville should convert to an Academy because we believe this will:

- Benefit the children in our school now and in the future,
- Provide autonomy in our long term strategic planning,
- Give us a degree of financial security from future cuts in funding,
- Allow us to continue to support and develop the educational provision in other schools.

It will do this by:

- Enabling us to receive our full entitlement of funding directly from central government and ensuring we only pay for local services we need to use,
- Allowing us to adjust the curriculum to ensure it best suits Belleville children,
- Freeing us from Local Authority control and restrictions, such as changes in admissions policy,
- Enabling us to continue to recruit, retain and develop excellent staff.

Before making a final decision, the next stage is for parents and others who are involved in the school to come and find out more, ask questions and let us know how you feel about converting to an Academy.

- The consultation runs from Monday 9 May to Wednesday 22 June.
- A meeting for parents will be held at the school on Monday 23 May at 9.30am and again at 6.30pm where you can come and share your views or ask questions.
- The full Q&A document gives detailed reasons for our proposal and explains the implications if we go ahead. A copy is being sent home with this letter and can be found on the school website or in the school office.

Do please contribute to the consultation by reading the information, asking questions and letting us know your views by email or in person.

The Governing body will meet again at the end of the consultation to consider the results of the consultation. These views will be taken into account before the Governing Body make a final decision whether to put in an application to convert to Academy status.

Thank you for your continued support for the school  
Yours faithfully,



Kate Amis

Chair of Governors

## CONSULTATION TIMESCALE

**Consultation opens**  
Monday 9 May 2011

**Parent meetings**  
Monday 23 May  
9.30am & 6.30pm

**Governors in School Week**  
Monday 6 to Friday 10 June

**Consultation closes**  
Wednesday 22 June 2011

## CONTACT

**The Chair of Governors**

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