

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the consultation, by email (consultation@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk) and letter (address below).

It is very important that we know your views and those of the wider community, on what everyone will appreciate is a complex and multi-dimensional issue.

The consultation period has been extended for a second time and now ends on Friday 21st June.

We will respond to the questions once the consultation period has ended. Please be assured we will continue to devote significant energy into this critical decision, taking into account many factors. Our objective is to do what is best for the children, to provide the best opportunities and outcomes for them in the long term. Many of us are not only Governors but also personally invested with children of our own attending Belgrave.

Thank you again for your interest and please continue to submit your thoughts and questions as they are of paramount importance to us.

Kind regards,

Rhonwen Barraclough, Churni Jennings Juliette Benton (Headteacher); Lynne Taylor, Tim Clifton, Neil Stacey, Karen Chaplin, David Connolly, Mark Bland, Franck Schmidlin, Chris Martin and Carena Graham-Benson

The Governing Board,
Belgrave Primary School

Contributions to the consultations to be sent
by email:

consultation@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

or by post:

Consultation Response
Belgrave Primary School
Five Ashes Road
Chester
CH4 7QS

FAQs (additional)

Q: The consultation process appears very formal - submitting via email or on the questionnaires rather than chatting with members of the Governing Board.

A: We are guided by best practice, nationwide, of previous consultations and this has been found to be an effective method of collating a broad number of views.

As the consultation is for not just parents, but the wider community, we felt it essential to enable everyone (especially parents, carers and community members who might be unable to pop into the school easily) to have easy access to contacting us at a time convenient to them. There will undoubtedly be overlap in questions or themes and the Frequently Asked Questions format facilitates access to answer concerns and minimises possible confusion and ambiguity. There is a morning and afternoon session on 10th May where you can book a ten minute appointment and then an open forum on Monday 13th May at 6pm.

Q: Why now? Why hasn't academisation been mentioned before?

A: The Wrexham Road housing development has been on the school radar since the beginning (2017), as the creation of a brand new primary school on our doorstep creates risks and opportunities. In the Autumn term, the Local Authority will be ready to hear from organisations who might aspire to be the provider for the new school, hence why we now feel ready to officially consult with the wider community.

Q: Who are the Governing Board and why are they the ones running the consultation?

A: The Governing Board is a group of volunteers from the Belgrave community, including elected members of staff and parent representatives. They govern the school, focusing on the core functions of providing strategic leadership, holding the headteacher to account and making sure the school's money is well spent. As such, the decision to become an academy, and the due diligence exercise around that decision is entirely their responsibility.