

More Information

We have circulated more information about Steel City Schools Partnership and some Frequently Asked Questions about Academies via email. However, paper copies are available in reception and on the school's website. You can also find more information at <http://www.steel-city-schools-partnership.org/>

How do I have my say?

Having read the details of why we have reached this decision, we now invite you to participate in our consultation to give your opinion. You will be able to contribute your opinion in one of the following ways:

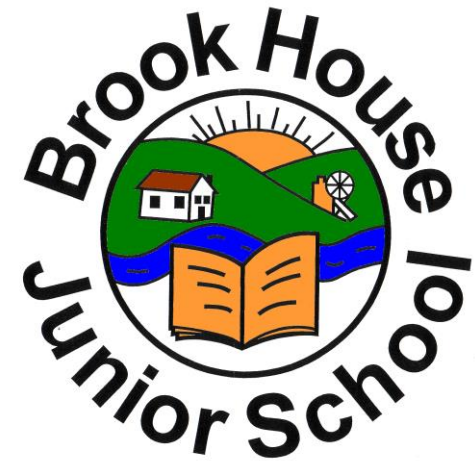
- ❖ Attend one of the consultation meetings we are holding at school on
Wednesday 12th June at 5.30 pm
Thursday 13th June at 9 am
- ❖ Email your questions to consultation@brookhouse.sheffield.sch.uk (before 24th June 2019) or bring them to one of the consultation meetings

Please note that the staff at Brook House are also invited to contribute to the consultation. A separate Staff consultation evening was held on the 14th May.

What happens now?

This leaflet marks the start of a 5-week consultation to gain the views of our parents, carers, pupils and staff. After the consultation the school Governing Body will then formally vote on whether Brook House Junior School will join Steel City Schools Partnership. A period of 'due diligence' will then follow which is where the school, the Trust, and Sheffield City Council undertake significant background checks to make sure we are all fully happy with details such as finances, insurance, buildings etc.

Academisation Consultation Information



Welcome

The Governors and Senior Leaders are writing to ask you to give your opinion on a consultation that is undoubtedly one of the most important decisions we will make on behalf of Brook House Junior School. We would like to seek your views on Brook House becoming part of Steel City School's Partnership.

Why have we made this decision now?

We have been prompted by a number of factors to consider joining Steel City Schools Partnership – they are:-

- The growing trend of schools joining a Multi-Academy Trust, in order to benefit from the additional resources, funding and collaborative approaches to teaching, learning and leadership that a MAT can offer.
- By May 2019 Sheffield will have over 50% primary schools and all except one of the secondary schools converted to an academy. As a Governing Body we would like to “take our destiny in our own hands” and choose which academy Trust is right for Brook House given we are an Ofsted ‘Good’ school.
- We currently buy in many essential services from the Local Authority (e.g. Health & Safety, Human Resources and Finance) and as more schools convert to academies we will see the costs of these services increase or they may no longer be offered.
- Steel City Schools Partnership have given us an opportunity to be involved in joining a Hub with schools on the Greenhill side of the city (which is relatively close by). We know another school in our locality has expressed an interest in joining SCSP and so ultimately we are hoping to create our own locality Hub. This is a very exciting prospect for Brook House potentially opening up great opportunities for enhancing professional development for all our staff, which will lead to better outcomes for our pupils. Over the last few years we have increased our collaborative work with others schools in our Family of Schools and this has benefitted our staff. This will continue whilst increasing collaboration with other schools for both children and staff.

In the last year we have also learnt a great deal about what it means to be part of a Multi-Academy Trust. The Governors have thoroughly researched academy trusts, different models and set criteria that needed to be met before a consultation would be considered. We decided that: -

- ❖ We didn’t want to join a large corporation with a range of schools from all over the country, but we did want to join a primary school Trust. SCSP are Sheffield based, primary school led Trust, who do not want to become a national chain.
- ❖ We want to join a multi academy trust that encourages schools to focus on what’s best for their pupils, retain their identity, leadership structure, and values. What we have seen from SCSP is exactly that; they value every child and school as individuals. The great value in becoming part of the Trust is developing stronger partnerships that enhance all pupils and schools.
- ❖ We also want to join a successful trust that has the skills, knowledge and experience to develop and grow. Steel City Schools Partnership has been established for 6 years, the CEO is an Ofsted Inspector with a vast knowledge of primary education and five of the schools who are part of the Trust, or are currently in the process of joining SCSP are judged “good” by Ofsted, the last one being in January 2017.

It’s fair to say, the combination of these factors have changed the viewpoint of both Brook House Governors and Senior Leaders, most of whom had previously been skeptical about becoming an academy.

What changes would I see?

The changes that our parents, carers and pupils will see in the immediate future would be minimal. There will be no changes to uniforms, policies or staffing. Brook House will very much remain Brook House we are just widening the school's access to networks of colleagues, school improvement expertise and some beneficial shared 'back-office' resources.