



Cotham Governors respond to your comments on the consultation on whether Cotham should become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with Prima.

Cotham School Governors are grateful for all the comments and contributions we have received as responses to the consultation on whether Cotham School should become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with Prima.

We received in excess of 150 responses to our consultation. Many of the comments were very clear in accepting that Cotham has decided to become a MAT, but preferring the cooperative model of working and very clear about the need to maintain excellent education for all students.

In moving towards becoming a MAT, we have always been keen to build on our success as a Co-operative Academy and our commitment to achieve the best outcomes for all students at Cotham and in the wider community, working with organisations such as Prima who share our vision and commitment to excellence.

We consider that a MAT offers us the opportunity to continue to maintain our high quality education for all through collaboration with others. This will enable us to share expertise in school improvement and teacher training and development, as well as gaining from economies of scale in such areas as administration and specialist support to students.

Since we started the consultation the circumstances underlying our commitment to work with Prima have changed. In particular the Department for Education has published new guidance for MATs based on the Cooperative model Articles of Government (MAT6) so it would now be more straightforward to progress with creating a Cooperative MAT.

In the light of the changed circumstances and the outcome of the consultation the Governing Body have now agreed that:

‘The school will continue to work to form a MAT using the Co-operative Model Articles of Government (MAT 6) in discussion with schools and other interested parties that have expressed an interest in working with Cotham.’

Our next steps will be to work up the details for a Co-operative Multi Academy Trust and work with schools and organisations who are interested to work with us for the benefit of students at schools within the MAT and the wider community.

We will keep you informed of progress

Jim Bowyer

Chair of Governors, Cotham School