



## Bickley Primary School

Nightingale Lane, Bromley BR1 2SQ

Telephone: (020) 84606790

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“Live to Learn: Learn to Live”

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**Head Teacher:** Ms Elizabeth Blake B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

**Deputy Head:** Mrs Rae Cairns B.Ed (Hons)

6 October 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

### **Proposal for Bickley Primary School to Convert to an Academy and join Nexus Education Schools Trust**

This letter asks for your comments on a proposal for our school to convert to Academy status as part of Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) which is a locally formed Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of primary schools.

Bromley Local Authority is actively encouraging all schools to convert to academy status and to join a MAT. Bickley Primary is currently one of a very small number of schools which have not yet done so. Over the past 2 years, the Governing Body has discussed the implications of Bickley joining a Multi Academy Trust and has decided that the time is right, due to changes at Bromley Local Authority and a shift in the provision of services. The Governors have considered all the local MATs and have chosen NEST as they offer the opportunity to become part of a MAT with shared values and a focus on continual improvement. We would therefore like to begin the consultation process to transfer to a MAT.

The Government continues to encourage schools to become academies and in particular for primary schools to become academies in groups.

Converting to Academy status within a Multi academy Trust will:

- Develop the highest quality of leadership and management
- Develop the highest quality of teaching and learning
- Give us greater freedoms in developing the school curriculum to make sure that it is personalised to the needs of our pupils ensuring high expectations for all
- Bring economic benefits such as centralised services
- Enable us to work with other schools to support each other in school improvement
- Support the development of staff in schools across the Trust

We are very proud of Bickley Primary School, and want to ensure that we continue to be successful by driving forward standards through working in partnership with the other primary schools which are part of the Nexus Education Schools Trust.



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The NEST schools are:

- Alexandra Junior School
- Farnborough Primary School
- Highfield Infants' School
- Highfield Junior School
- Manor Oak Primary School
- Perry Hall Primary School
- Pickhurst Infant School
- Worsley Bridge Primary School

This is an exciting time to shape the direction of our school. The Governing Body will make a decision after we have had the opportunity to hear the views of the parents, carers and local stakeholders. We will ensure that our decision will be in the best interests of the present and future children of Bickley.

We have attached a Question and Answer document that sets out the detail of joining Nexus Education Schools Trust. Please take the time to read and respond to this document, as we value your views.

Please respond by using any of the following methods:

- email the Chair of Governors (Tracey Mortimer Brown) at [admin.office@bickley.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@bickley.bromley.sch.uk)
- or write via the School Office marking your envelope 'Academy Consultation'
- Write to Mrs Paula Farrow, CEO, Nexus Education Schools Trust, Worsley Bridge Primary School, Brackley Rd, BR3 1RF

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 3 November 2017.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Mortimer Brown (Chair of Governors)      Elizabeth Blake (Head Teacher)