

26 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you with important information regarding the future of our school.

Many of you will be aware that the educational landscape has been changing for several years, with most secondary schools in England now being academies and not under the control of a local authority. For this reason, Carr Hill's Governing Body and the school's Leadership Team have been exploring converting to an academy. We have been looking carefully into the benefits and opportunities and I am pleased to share with you that we have been given the go ahead by the Department for Education to join the Education Partnership Trust (EPT), a well-established and successful Trust based in the North West. Having reviewed the extensive support available by joining a multi academy trust, and the benefits that collaboration with the EPT will bring to Carr Hill, we believe that joining the EPT will be an exceptionally positive step for our school to continue to develop and further improve.

The Education Partnership Trust was established in 2012 and currently has seven schools including mainstream secondary, alternative provision and special. EPT promotes academic excellence and encourages creativity but also wishes to respect and strengthen the ethos of their schools as individual and distinctive establishments – an idea which has been very important for our Governors. Sharon Roscoe, the Chief Executive of EPT will write to you with further details in the coming days but it is anticipated that the conversion to academy status will happen in July 2024. We will put a frequently asked questions page about academies on the school website in the next few days and arrange for a dedicated email address where you can submit any questions you may have. In the meantime you can read more about the trust at: <https://www.educationpartnershiptrust.org>

As part of the EPT, Carr Hill will benefit from support in staff training, curriculum development, teaching developments and reviews of teaching and learning. We will also be able to contribute our own expertise and strengths to the trust. As Governors and staff we look forward to working with the executive team and the other schools. The trust will have overall responsibility for performance and standards in the school while on a day to day basis the headteacher and staff, with support and challenge from the local governing body, will continue to run the school. We hope too that we will benefit from access to capital funding which is now very limited in the maintained sector - academies and trusts have access to greater capital funding.

In October the Headteacher informed you of his decision to retire in the summer. As the Education Partnership Trust will be the employer of all staff from July 2024, they will now take the lead in the recruitment process for a new Headteacher and I anticipate that the post will be advertised in the next couple of weeks.



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Headteacher Mr A Waller, MA, BA Hons
Deputy Headteacher Miss A Jordinson, BSc Hons

I would like to thank you for your continued support. Carr Hill has made a great deal of progress in recent years and we now want to build on that as part of the EPT. We all want the pupils at Carr Hill to be placed in the strongest position for the future, and as such, the priority of the Governing Body, and school leaders must be to enable Carr Hill to continue to provide excellent education for our children, retaining our unique qualities and strengths whilst protecting the school's role at the heart of our community. We feel that the exciting opportunities afforded through partnership with the EPT will allow our pupils to excel in all that they do, achieve excellent outcomes, and leave our school fully prepared to achieve their ambitions.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Shepherd'.

Joanne Shepherd
Chair of Governors