



Chandlers Field Primary School
#yeswecan

Re: Proposed Academy Conversion

Dear Parents/Carers,

The governing body of Chandlers Field Primary is exploring the possibility of converting to an academy, but the school is not obligated to convert until a Funding Agreement is signed with the Department for Education. This agreement will not be signed until all stakeholders, including parents, carers, staff, and pupils, have had the opportunity to share their views.

What is an Academy?

An academy is a state-funded independent school. It operates independently of the local authority and receives funding directly from the central government.

The governing body of Chandlers Field has spent over 12 months carefully considering the benefits of academisation and the various options open to the school. This process has included meeting with several academy trusts to gain an understanding of their mission and values and to see if they aligned with our own. Through this extensive research, the governors feel that LEO Academy Trust is the best fit for our school.

We are proposing to become an academy as part of LEO Academy Trust. This means that we will be part of an academy group comprising Brookfield Primary Academy, Cheam Common Infants Academy, Cheam Common Junior Academy, Cheam Fields Academy, Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy, Shawley Community Academy, Hurst Park Primary, Manor Park Primary Academy and West Ashted Primary. Furzefield Primary and Polesden Lacey Infants School are in the process of joining LEO Academy Trust.

Why become an Academy?

- **Support Network:** Being part of a family of schools provides a collaborative network, allowing us to share expertise and resources, and receive support to enhance our educational offerings.
- **Additional Funding:** Academies receive their funding directly from central government – this means that academies receive more funding because less is retained by the local authority for the provision of central services
- **Opportunities for Innovation:** As part of the Trust, we have more freedom to undertake innovative projects and explore creative solutions to enhance teaching and learning.
- **Access to Wider Opportunities:** Being part of a multi-academy trust can provide our staff and students with access to a broader range of professional development and learning opportunities.

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- Enhanced Collaboration: The Trust encourages collaboration among its schools, allowing us to share best practices and work together for the benefit of all students.

Are there any disadvantages?

The academy trust will assume responsibility for areas like insurance, employment, pensions, and property maintenance. However, academies receive additional funding to manage these responsibilities, and LEO Academy Trust has experience in these areas.

Will the conversion affect staff?

Staff will automatically transfer to the academy with their current pay and conditions. Any future changes would involve consultation with staff representatives.

Will the school change?

We do not intend to make significant changes to the school's day-to-day operations. The school, uniform, curriculum, and extracurricular activities will remain the same.

How can I find out more?

We invite you to attend information sessions on Thursday 6th February at 6.30 or Thursday 27th February at 9am in the school hall. Please register your attendance using the link [here](#).

Please share your views and questions by 1st March by either:

- Emailing us at info@chandlers-field.surrey.sch.uk
- Writing to the school address

Please submit any questions you have to info@chandlers-field.surrey.sch.uk

The governing body will consider all responses and make a decision in March 2025.

Thank you for your engagement in this important process.

Yours Sincerely,

Eric Verheijden
Chair of Governors

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