

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 05/14

Date: September 2014

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: To provide an update on the schools in Medway that have sought or are seeking academy school status and to provide information on the role of overview and scrutiny in relation to academy and free schools

STATUS OF SCHOOLS IN MEDWAY AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ROLE

Status of schools

The attached table provides the current information in relation to school status for primary schools in Medway. The following schools have recently, or are due to, change their status:

1 September 2014

Napier Primary School, Cuxton Infant School and Cuxton Junior School converted to academy status.

New School: New Horizons Children's Academy was successfully established, sponsored by The Thinking Schools Academy Trust.

Inspire Free School too was established replacing The Oaks at Silverbank.

October/November 2014

The Howard School have been granted an Academy Order and are targeted to convert independently on **1 October 2014**

Brompton Westbrook (Academy order granted) is aiming at **1 October** to convert independently.

Stoke Primary School have been granted an Academy Order to convert independently and will be joining the Williamson Trust, target conversion date **1 November 2014**.

From 1 October 2014 all of Medway secondary schools with the exception of St John Fisher Catholic School will be academies.

Role of overview and scrutiny in relation to Academy schools

A report on academies governance arrangements and the role of the local authority was presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 May 2012. This report explained to members that academies are independent schools, entirely responsible to the Secretary of State for their performance.

<http://democracy.Medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=15256>

The following link takes you to a set of Frequently Asked Questions about academies published by the Department for Education which clearly states there is no statutory requirement for any formal relationship between local authorities and academies beyond that which is required for the delivery of local authority statutory duties, such as the making and reviewing of SEN statements, securing sufficient education in an area and provision of home-to-school transport for eligible children

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/la/a00205173/local-authorities-faqs#faq7>

The DfE says that local authorities will continue to play a strategic role locally and there will be significant advantages for both academies and local authorities in constructive partnership working; for example around planning, 14-19 provision or sharing good practice locally.

In terms of standards in academies (and holding sponsors to account for this) the lead responsibility sits with the Department for Education and the Schools

In October 2013, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) produced a guide called 'Back to School: Ways for scrutiny to influence local education and support school leaders to improve results'. This publication sets the context in which members operate and explores the evolving role of scrutiny with case studies to demonstrate different approaches being made across England.

http://www.cfps.org.uk/domains/cfps.org.uk/local/media/downloads/L13_718_CfPs_LGA_Education_v5.pdf

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School Planning area	School	DfE No	Status	
Peninsula	Allhallows Primary	2005	Academy	Sponsored conversion with the Williamson Trust
	Chattenden Primary	2209	Academy	Independent conversion (Formed the Peninsula Gateway Academy Trust)
	Cliffe Woods Primary	2588	Academy	Independent conversion
	High Halstow Primary	2421	Academy	Independent conversion, but joined The Williamson Trust
	Hoo St Werburgh Primary	2213	Community	
	St Helen's CE Primary	3096	Controlled	
	St James' CE VA Primary	2002	Academy	Sponsored conversion, sponsored by the Rochester Diocese and The Williamson Trust
	Stoke Community Primary	2194	Community	Approved for independent conversion. Joining the Williamson Trust; target date 1 November 2014
Strood	All Faiths Primary	2600	Academy	Independent conversion, but joined The RGS/AFS Thinking Schools Trust
	Bligh infant	2537	Community	Federated
	Bligh Junior	2492	Community	
	Cedar Primary	2469	Community	Formerly Sherwin Knight Infant and Junior Schools
	Elaine Primary	2000	Academy	Sponsored conversion with The Williamson Trust
	English Martyrs RC Primary	3729	Aided	
	Gordon Infant	2010	Academy	Sponsored Conversion with the RGS/AFS Thinking Schools Trust
	Gordon Junior	2009	Academy	Sponsored Conversion with the RGS/AFS Thinking Schools Trust
	Hilltop Primary	2499	Community	
	St Nicholas CE Infant	3102	Controlled	
	Temple Mill Primary	2685	Community	
Wainscott Primary	2210	Community		
Gill'ham West	Barnsole Primary	2396	Community	
	Brompton Westbrook Primary	2646	Community	Academy order granted to convert to academy independently, target date 1 October 2014
	Byron Primary	2644	Community	
	Burnt Oak Primary	3760	Community	
	Napier Primary	2012	Academy	Sponsored By The Kemnal Academy Trust
	Saxon Way Primary	2004	Academy	Sponsored conversion with the Griffin Schools Trust
	Oasis Academy: Skinner Street	2006	Academy	Sponsored Conversion with the Oasis Trust
	St Marys RC Primary	3755	Aided	
	St Marys Island CE Primary	3756	Aided	
Woodlands Primary	2412	Academy	Independent Conversion to academy 1 April 2013	
Gill'ham East	Featherby Infant	2401	Community	
	Featherby Junior	2400	Community	
	Riverside Primary	3757	Community	
	St Thomas Cant'bury RC Primary	3732	Aided	
	Thames View Primary	2592	Community	
	Twydall Primary	2754	Community	
Rainham	Deanwood Primary	2684	Community	
	Fairview Primary	3759	Community	
	Hempstead Infant	2638	Community	
	Hempstead Junior	2403	Community	
	Mierscourt Primary	2623	Community	
	Parkwood Infant	2494	Community	Federated
	Parkwood Junior	2493	Community	
	St Augustine's RC Primary	3752	Aided	
	St Margaret's CE Junior	3195	Controlled	
	St Margaret's Infant	2479	Community	
Chatham	All Saint's CE Primary	3093	Controlled	
	Balfour Infant	2215	Community	
	Balfour Junior	2214	Community	
	Phoenix Junior Academy	2001	Academy	Sponsored Academy, with The Fort Pitt Grammar Trust; formerly Glencoe Junior School
	Greenvale Infant	2198	Community	
	Luton Infant	2201	Community	
	Luton Junior	2199	Community	
	New Horizons Primary School	2008	Academy	Opened 1 September 2014 New Academy sponsored by The Thinking Schools Trust
	New Road Primary	2202	Community	
St John's CE Infant	3095	Controlled		
St Michael's RC Primary	3712	Aided		
Rochester	Delce Infant	2216	Community	
	Delce Junior	2413	Academy	Independent conversion 1 April 2014
	St Margaret's Troy Town CE Prim	3293	Controlled	
	St Peters Infant	2665	Community	
	St William of Perth RC Primary	3746	Aided	
	The Pilgrim CE Primary	3758	Controlled	
Warren Wood Primary	2011	Academy	Sponsored Academy from 1 July 2014. Sponsored by Greenacre.	
Cuxton/Halling	Cuxton Infant	2208	Academy	Joining the Primary First Trust (Not sponsored)
	Cuxton Junior	2013	Academy	Sponsored by Primary First Trust
	Halling Primary	2211	Community	
Walderslade	Horsted Infant	2439	Community	Federated
	Horsted Junior	2506	Community	
	Kingfisher Primary	2003	Academy	Sponsored conversion with the Griffin Schools Trust
	Lordswood Primary	2007	Academy	Sponsored conversion with the Griffin Schools Trust
	Maundene Primary	2580	Community	
	Oaklands Primary	2433	Community	
	St Benedicts RC Primary	3753	Aided	
	St Thomas More RC Primary	3736	Aided	
	Swingate Primary	2549	Community	Formerly Swingate Infant and Spinnens Acre Junior Schools
Walderslade Primary	2203	Community		
Wayfield Primary	2668	Academy	Independent conversion, joined the Griffin Schools Trust	

Summary				
	Maintained	Academy	Totals	%
Infant	13	2	15	19.2
Junior	8	4	12	15.4
Primary	35	16	51	65.4
	56	22	78	
%	71.8	28.2		