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|  | NE School Logo Colour (1).jpg | North Elmham CEVC Primary School |
|  | Headteachers: Miss Tobin & Mr Isherwood |
|  | Holt Rd, North Elmham, NR20 5JS  Tel: 01362 668318, Email: office@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk |
|  | Website: **northelmhamschool.com** |



Date 25th February 2019

**North Elmham CEVC Primary School**

**Proposal to change of category from Voluntary Controlled(VC) to Voluntary Aided (VA) from 1st September 2019**

Dear all,

During the past months, Governors and the Senior Leadership team at North Elmham CEVC Primary School have been looking at how best to secure a strong and positive future for our school, within the ever changing national and local contexts. We are proposing to change the category of North Elmham CEVC Primary School from what is known as ‘Voluntary Controlled’ to ‘Voluntary Aided ‘. This will have a number of impacts which are detailed below, none of which is significant to you, but you need to be aware

North Elmham CEVC Primary School already has strong links with the local church. A change to Voluntary Aided category is a natural way of strengthening those links within the local church community.

The school has decided that they have a strong commitment towards federating with a like- minded school in the future. The change of category for North Elmham CEVC Primary School would help consolidate and simplify the combined management needs of two schools following federation, if that was approved.

**What changes when a school moves to Voluntary Aided category?**

Staffing

The governing board would become the employer of all the staff. The terms, conditions and continuity of the current staff of the school would be unaffected. In the future the governing board will be able to use provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to ensure that new teaching staff will be as committed to the support of the ethos of a Church school as those currently employed at the school.

By the governing board becoming the employer (rather than Norfolk County Council) we would not need to pay the Government Apprenticeship Levy. This would save the school nearly £1,200 per year that we can redirect towards the education of our children.

Governing board

Subject to consultation and agreement a new instrument of governance would come into force on 1st September 2019, which will provide the majority of places to church (foundation) governors.

In practical terms this would mean there has to be a new Governing Board from 1 September 2019. We would expect the Board to include similar people to now

Admissions

At present Norfolk Children’s Services is responsible for admissions at the school. Following the change of status the governing board will be responsible for admissions and these would still be co-ordinated by the local authority. The admissions policy would be approved by the Diocese of Norwich and the local authority.

It is likely that we would adopt the NCC admissions policy, but it will allow us to adapt it, if it is felt to be beneficial to the school

The National Curriculum

All the requirements of the National Curriculum still apply in a Voluntary Aided School. Therefore there will be no changes in the general curriculum of the school and we shall continue to work to the same high standards that we have now.

Collective worship

The collective worship of the school already reflects the wide range of Anglican resources available for school worship; therefore there will be no changes in content.

Inclusion

North Elmham CEVC Primary School serves all children in the local community, irrespective of faith or background. The strong Christian ethos of the school will continue as will the core value of inclusivity.

Religious Education

Currently the school uses the Local Authority agreed Religious Education syllabus. Following the change to voluntary aided category the school is responsible for setting its own syllabus. However, there would be no change as the school would continue to follow the Local Authority agreed syllabus.

Ethos

A change to Voluntary Aided category will help to further secure the Christian ethos of the school in the future.

Capital Expenditure - New Build and Refurbishments

Any new build or major refurbishment works for a Voluntary Aided School are 90% grant aided by the Diocesan Board of Education with funds from the Department for Education and is the responsibility of the governing body. The 10% must be found by other means by the governing body.

What this could mean in practice, is that if we had a capital project that was acceptable to the Diocese that was going to cost the school say £20,000, we could apply for funding from the Diocese for £18,000, leaving the school to find the other £2,000 through fund raising or something similar. This compares to the current position where the school is allocated a capital spend budget of about £5,000 per year

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**North Elmham CEVC Primary School**

**Consultation on change of category from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided, by 1st September 2019**

**Let us know what you think of our proposal**

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the category of North Elmham CEVC Primary School, to a Voluntary Aided school? Please tick a box.

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree

Disagree Strongly disagree Don’t know

Why do you say this? Please write it the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people, as your views help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to change the category of school at North Elmham CEVC Primary School.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (Regulation (EU)) 2016/679) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal information will be used to inform respondents of progress with the proposal. All information given will be held in strictest confidence and maintained in accordance with data protection legislation.

Please tell us who you are. Please tick all boxes that apply.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pupil  Parent / Guardian  Member of the Parent Teacher  Association  Member of staff | School governor  Local resident Local business  Local sports group  Local community group |

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At which school? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is your postcode? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by returning this completed form to:

* Your school office
* Posting it to: School Governors, North Elmham CEVC Primary School, 70 Holt Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 5JS

**This consultation ends on 5th April 2019**

**What happens next?**

This consultation will run from 25th February 2019 to 5th April 2019. We will be holding 2 consultation events, where our proposal will be explained in more detail and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

**Date:** Friday 8th March 2019 **Time:** 14:45pm

**Date:** Monday 11th March 2019 **Time:** 18.00pm

After the closing date, the governors will look at all the responses gathered during the consultation period and decide whether to proceed to the next stage in the process – statutory public notice. The statutory period runs for 4 weeks.

The decision-maker for this proposal from the governors, is the Executive Director of Children’s Services, Norfolk County Council.