# Forest Fields Primary & Nursery School



Stanley Road off Berridge Road Nottingham NG7 6GQ
Telephone: 0115 915 6872 Fax: 0115 915 6873
admin@forestfields.nottingham.sch.uk
www.forestfieldsprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs S Chowdhury BEd (Hons), NPQH, MA
AfCGI, ILM Level 5 Certificate in Effective Coaching and Mentoring

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We want to let you know that governors have been looking carefully at the future of Forest Fields Primary & Nursery School. Like many other maintained schools, we have been exploring whether becoming an academy might be the right step for our children, staff and community.

At the moment, Forest Fields is a maintained school. This means Nottingham City Council is our employer, owns the school buildings and land, and manages admissions. Our funding comes through the Local Authority, which keeps a portion to provide services to schools.

If a school becomes an academy, it joins a Multi Academy Trust. The Trust becomes the employer, the funding comes directly from the Department for Education, and the Trust takes responsibility for the land and buildings. Staff keep all their current pay, pensions and employment rights. The Local Authority still has legal duties such as SEND and safeguarding.

Over the past few months, governors have visited and spoken with several academy trusts to understand what they offer and how they work. After this research, the Governing Board has agreed to start the process by applying for an Academy Order to join Raleigh Education Trust.

This is **not a final decision**. We are now beginning a consultation with staff, parents and the community. We want to hear your views, and these will help us decide whether to go ahead. You will have opportunities this term to ask questions, share your thoughts and meet representatives from the Trust.

We are exploring this option because we want the very best for our children. Raleigh Education Trust offers strong support for teaching and learning, specialist expertise, and high-quality training for staff. We believe this could help us continue improving outcomes for every child.

Enclosed is a Frequently Asked Questions document and if you have any questions or comments please send them via this link **Forms for Parents – Fill in form**

You will also be invited to a meeting during the consultation period and have the opportunity to hear from Raleigh Education Trust.

**Forest Fields, a "school … for everyone"**

**where "Pupils are proud of their diverse friendships"… "and of the multilingual knowledge they have."**
Ofsted February 2024

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Consultation starts today and runs until 18 December 2026. Governors will then carefully consider responses and ensure that all questions are answered.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

**The Governing Board of Forest Fields Primary & Nursery School**

**Parent Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why are governors looking at becoming an academy?**

The Government has encouraged schools that are not already part of a trust to think about their future. Governors want to make sure Forest Fields has the right support, expertise and opportunities to give children the best education. To do this properly, we have looked at both staying as we are and joining a Multi Academy Trust.

**What is an academy?**

An academy is still a state school and still free for families. The main difference is that it is part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) instead of being run by the Local Authority. The Trust receives the school's funding directly from the Government and decides how to spend it to support children and staff.

**Would anything change for children?**

Day-to-day school life would stay the same. Children would still have the same teachers, the same curriculum, the same school day and the same term dates. The aim is to improve support for teaching and learning, not to change what children experience in school.

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**Why Raleigh Education Trust?**

Governors visited and spoke with several trusts. Raleigh Education Trust stood out because of their strong support for teaching, their understanding of schools in similar communities, and their focus on helping every child succeed. We believe they could offer the right expertise and training to help Forest Fields continue improving.

**Is this a final decision?**

No. Governors have only agreed to **start the process**. We are now consulting with staff, parents and the community. Your views will help us decide whether to go ahead.

**Will the school name change?**

No. We are not planning to change the school's name. If we joined the Trust, the logo on letters and signs would change from Nottingham City Council to Raleigh Education Trust.

**Will term dates change?**

No. We would continue to follow Nottingham City term dates.

**Will admissions or the catchment area change?**

No. The same rules would apply. The only difference is that the Trust would take on the role the Local Authority currently has in managing admissions.

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**Will staff lose their jobs or have their pay changed?**

No. Staff keep all their current pay, pensions and employment rights. If the school became an academy, staff would transfer to the Trust under legal protections that keep their terms and conditions the same.

**Who would run the school?**

The school's leadership team would continue to run the school day-to-day. There would still be a Local Governing Body for Forest Fields, but it would work within the wider Trust structure.

**Will the curriculum change?**

No. The school would continue to decide what children learn. The Trust would support and quality-assure the curriculum, but Forest Fields would keep control of what is taught.

**How can I find out more about Raleigh Education Trust?**

You can visit their website: **https://www.raleightrust.org/** You will also have opportunities during the consultation to meet Trust representatives and ask questions.

**How can I share my views?**

Use the link we included in the letter. Details will be shared soon about a meeting.