

SHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 22nd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

At an extraordinary meeting of Sherington's Governing Board yesterday, Governors voted unanimously to remain as a local authority maintained school rather than begin a programme of due diligence and consultation that would pave the way to joining the Leigh Academies Trust.

When we set out to explore the idea of academisation, and when we began a public conversation about the issue, we promised to make this choice in the best interests of children now and in the future. That meant choosing the option that gave us the best prospect of financial sustainability and stability; the strongest opportunities for the recruitment, retention and development of high quality staff; and the best chance of delivering a sustainable school in a changing environment. The Governing Body has concluded that while these challenges remain, we are better placed to address them as a local authority maintained school than as part of the Leigh Academies Trust.

Sherington is a great school, but there is some hard work to be done to make sure we stay that way and remain fit for the future. Working in partnerships with other schools and organisations is already an important part of the school's operating model, and will become more so. We look forward to working closely with the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and to making the most of the partnership opportunities and other support they can provide. We would like to thank the staff of the Leigh Academies Trust for the candid and helpful information they have provided and also the parents, carers and staff who have asked questions, presented views and taken part in an emotive debate over the last few weeks.

This has not been an easy process by any means, but it's important that we are able to show our Sherington children that we can have difficult conversations and conduct them in a courteous, respectful and positive way. It's been great to hear the warmth of feeling from parents and carers towards the school and the whole staff team, and your feedback has helped the governing body reach a decision based on sound evidence. We will continue to engage with you as we look at the future.

The materials used by Governors in their decision making and the minutes of the meeting will be made available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Sherington Governing Body



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