



John Ray Infant School

"learning together, aiming high, proud to be ourselves"

Notley Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1HL

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Headteacher:

Mrs Lisa Christian

Friday, 21 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may know last year John Ray Infants School applied to become part of the Saffron Academy Trust. However, after consultation with the Regional Schools Commissioner then it was advised that we instead look more closely at joining the Compass Partnership of Schools, as this is the trust that John Ray Juniors School belong to.

After much discussion and consideration, the Governors of John Ray Infant School have concluded that we should initiate a consultation on a proposal for John Ray Infants to convert to an academy school and, in partnership with the other schools in the Compass Partnership if they so agree, to join together to become a Multi-Academy Trust.

In coming to this decision to consult, most significantly, we are of the view that John Ray Infant's membership of the Compass Partnership will afford the school, our staff, families and children many advantages and opportunities. In addition, we have considered the many changes in the educational landscape and, in particular, our understanding of the increasingly negative financial impact on primary schools going forward. We are of course very excited to join Compass and we look forward to working with the juniors.

We already work very closely with John Ray Junior School and we believe that formalising our relationship gives us the best position, within this successful group of schools to deal with the huge financial pressures we are likely to face over the next five years, and we hope that it will allow our existing success to continue and our children to progress with their learning and school experience without compromise. We would expect that by joining Compass that our children's journey through the infants and onto the juniors would be even more seamless, and that we can meet the school communities needs successfully in partnership.

In launching this consultation, our priority will always be to secure the long-term direction, ethos and values that bind us together whilst protecting the individuality of John Ray Infants School in which our children thrive and which is certainly one of its key strengths.

Our intention, if we agree to move forward with the proposal, would be to build on the increased flexibilities that come with academy status, allowing us to collaborate as a group of schools, working for an innovative and creative future, with the wellbeing of our children always being at the forefront of our minds.

Your thoughts and comments are important to us. Two information sessions for parents and carers held in due course. At these sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and hear from leaders and Governors with regards to our thoughts on this and why we are initiating this consultation.

Should you prefer to post your questions or comments, please send them to:-

John Ray Infants School, Notley Road, Braintree, CM7 1HL

Alternatively, you may submit them by email to one of the following email addresses: -

head@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk or karen.wark@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk

As ever you are always welcome to telephone or speak to us directly if you need any more information. Please note that the official period of consultation is from 21st April 2023 until 1st June 2023.

Having given due consideration to all the input from you and our other stakeholders, the final decision will be made by Governors. As always, the needs of our children will be paramount in reaching such a conclusion.

Please be assured that any decision will not be taken lightly. We as Governors are firmly committed to ensuring John Ray Infants School has a strong and bright future and is best equipped to face the ever-challenging and evolving education landscape.

Many thanks,



Mrs L Christian
Headteacher