

# Parent Academisation Consultation Meetings - Q & A

Tuesday 7th November 2017

**Q1 Will the change affect the teaching in school?  
Will kids learning be affected?**

*Teaching will remain the same, curriculum will remain the same. Continue to deliver an enriched curriculum for pupils*

**Q2 I understand that an academy (school) can come off the curriculum; in what circumstances would that happen?**

*Graveney Trust schools do not come off the curriculum and can choose to opt out of several things, however we do not.*

**Q3 Will parents be taken into account when considering uniform?  
Will SEND children be considered?**

*TPS children have managed to adapt well to their uniform and SEN children have been supported with this. Accommodation is made at all schools for SEND pupils.*

**Q4 Will parents be consulted on pricing of uniform? If the prices are similar to TPS, I will not be able to afford to send my children to the school.**

*The Trust always aims to support families, in particular those identified with any issues.*

**Q5 Practically with regards to uniform, the school often loses uniform or they get ruined at school. Will this be taken into account?  
Will children be sent home if they have incorrect uniform**

*Parents will be contacted about the uniform and we will take into account the cost of uniform*

**Q6 Will we be consulted in the final decision?**

*Yes, along with the children themselves, as they will be wearing the uniform.*

**Q7 Why wouldn't other schools work with us, outside of a MAT?**

*They would and have done very successfully in the past, but we would also gain better experiences for our children by joining a MAT. Access to use resources that Graveney have to offer, buildings, staffing expertise and grounds, relationship with secondary pupils.*

**Q8 Why will we be changing the school name?**

*The school will still be Franciscan.*

**Q9 Changing the name looks as though you have something to hide? TPS is a totally different school, FPS and TPS are two different classes of people. The name doesn't sit right.**

*We have to look at attracting more pupils.*

*The rest will remain the same, the Head will remain, the Governors, staff, building and children are what make the school and all those things will remain.*

**Q10 What were the other options for the new name? Why were they not put to parents?**

*There were other options and the name is still in consultation.*

*Parents who do not attend meetings will also need to be consulted. We wanted to keep the essential part of the brand 'Franciscan', but add a new element (House).*

*We want to signal to the community a positive change.*

*Some don't even know the school in the community, so we wanted to reach more people.*

**Q11 How will the change affect staff?**

*The staff will not be impacted contractually and in terms of their pension benefits.*

**Q12 Will it affect our children in terms of having priority in to Graveney School?  
What benefits will there be for our children?**

*Shared resources both in and out of the classroom. Maximise longevity of the school, by reducing 'back-office' costs and maximising the front line output.*

*Education funding is not set to improve in the next 5-10 years.*

*We want to keep teachers on the front line, which we can do in a MAT but reducing back office costs. FPS are not changing for the fun of it, there are fundamental reasons for the change.*

**Q13 Will children have priority to Graveney?**

*Not presently, as TPS children do not have priority in to Graveney.*

**Q14 Is the funding that bad?**

*Yes and it is forecast to get worse over coming years, not better.*

*Wandsworth Council are providing fewer and fewer services to schools. Wandsworth are in favour of schools becoming their own academies and joining MATs. Wandsworth Council are drastically downsizing their central services to reflect that, meaning there is less and less support for community schools.*

**Q15 Do staff have a say in this?**

*Yes, we are in a consultation process and have had and will continue to have whole school and 1:1 meetings with staff throughout.*

**Q16 Who approached who?**

*We went to Graveney, as well as other MATs.*

*We approached and met with several other MATs. We considered all of our options from other local MATs to some further afield.*

*FPS felt that alternative MATs were not the right fit and we wanted to remain close to the local community and to maintain strong local relationships.*

*We also feel that the risk is far less joining an existing MAT (than creating a new one).*

**Q17 So this has been in the pipeline for a long time? Why did you not come to parents sooner?**

*Governors have discussed it in depth.*

**Q18 What is the teaching going to be like?**

*We are always on a journey of improvement. Teaching will remain the same, if not better.*

**Q19 I ask the school to be more upfront.  
When will the change take place and why is it April 18, in the middle of the year?**

*We have to publicise a date officially. However the uniform etc will not change until the next academic year September 2018.*

*We have applied for a transfer to academy, which is waiting to be approved.*

**Q20 Will staff get their say?**

*Yes they will, throughout the consultation process.*

**Q21 Will the education be better if Franciscan joins the Trust?**

*The aim of working collectively is to put as many specialists together as possible. There will be drastic funding cuts by 2022 and schools will need to work hard to keep budgets as effective as they are. Schools will not be able to manage on their own if they do not join together. No one can make promises re the future of education funding.*

*Back office savings made by joining the Trust will also be transferred to additional support services for pupils. The services provided by Wandsworth will become more and more expensive as Schools leave the LA to become Academies.*

**Q22 What is the School Structure at 'Management' level?**

*Head and 3 Assistant Head Teachers*

**Q23 Why are there a lot of managerial staff?**

*Each Assistant Head has specific roles and responsibilities, including SENCO and Class Teacher.*

**Q24 Graveney Trust is performing well in terms of GCSE results. With the continual emphasis on funding, are the children going to get the education, attention and one to support they require and are teachers going to continue to receive the required training?**

*Yes*

**Q25 Will the new uniform be like TPS? There is no consistency with the current uniform and the recent change to red jumpers has been implemented at the wrong time.**

*No decisions have yet been made with regards to the new uniform.*

**Q26 In terms of educational targets, joining the Trust does not necessarily mean pupils are guaranteed a place in GT. If funding is not there, how will there be support for parents and pupils meeting targets and passing the Wandsworth Test?**

*The Graveney Trust wants what parents at Franciscan want – front line support and investment in teaching staff.*

**Q27 Will we have the same standards as Graveney?**

*Yes, we have high standards. Wandsworth is helping schools with moving on towards becoming Academies. There is solidarity and comfort in groups.*

*Children spend approximately 13% of their time at school and schools work with parents to help them support their children after school and at weekends. The Trust has exactly the same aspirations as parents.*

**Q28 What is the reasoning behind Graveney joining with 2 Primary schools?**

*Secondary Schools are funded better than Primary Schools and the very nature of their infrastructure means that they can easily look after Primary Schools and share back office costs such as HR, School Keepers and Business Managers.*

*It is also important to work with Schools close by. Secondary Schools tend to be further apart.*

**Q29 What is the benefit to Graveney?**

*It is our 'duty' to help. In the future there may not be a Local Authority. There is currently no status quo - schools must join together. Graveney has been inspired by Primary School Teachers.*

**Q30 Why the change on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018?**

*31<sup>st</sup> March is the end of the financial year for community schools and therefore 1<sup>st</sup> April is a logical date.*

**Q31 My daughter is in Year 6 – will we see any changes before she leaves?**

*No - there will only be financial changes.*

**Q32 My major concern is the financial effect on household income. Will there be clear communication and financial support with the new uniform?**

*We will consult with parents on uniform.*

**Q33 When?**

*As soon as possible.*

**Are parents consulted over uniform?**

*Yes, we will listen to your opinion, notes are being taken and we will consult further. Accommodation will be made for pupils with Special Needs and we would look at cases on an individual basis.*

**Q34 Will the education be better than it is? I currently have to pay for my child to be tutored.**

*This is a good School. The Head teacher and Governors are always working hard to make improvements. Those efforts will continue and anything that the Trust can do will be added to that.*

**Q35 Will any metrics be published?**

*Schools always have targets. Progress in the School is very good and improving year on year.*

**Q36 How are finances shared?**

*FPS keeps its own money. Some might be needed to buy some of the back office costs. Historically all schools in London have been well funded but there are changes with the introduction of the new National Funding Formula. We will put as much money as we can into front line costs.*

*Funding is received based upon pupil numbers and our real focus is therefore to ensure that all school classes are full.*

**Q37 Should there not be a joint Teacher and Parent Consultation Meeting?**

*Teachers will have time to consult with the NUT and discuss the TUPE process. There will be a lot of concerns about career progression, pensions, etc.*

**Q38 What are the next steps?**

*Consultation with Parents and Staff. Application to DfE to become an Academy. We are working with Wandsworth on the legal transfer of the land and school buildings.*

**Q39 Who owns the buildings and land?**

*They are owned by the Government and held in Trust by the DfE.*

*The School has good Teachers, good Teaching Assistants and good outdoor play space – all positive things.*

**Q40 Why is the name changing?**

*We want to keep the name 'Franciscan' but what we have to do is to attract new and different people. By adding to the name, we believe we are communicating the changes to others.*

*The vast majority of children refer to School as 'Franciscan'; the idea of Franciscan House is to attract new people.*

