



**Mrs Louise Wood BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH
Headteacher**

Dear Parent/Carer,

2nd November 2017

PROPOSED MOVE TO ACADEMY STATUS

Over the past couple of years, the governors have been considering how best to secure the future for Barrow Hedges Primary School in the context of the changing priorities that have been set by central government.

Many of you will be aware that the current government has been pushing for more Local Authority maintained schools to convert to academy status, and in recognition of the reduced role they see for Local Authorities in the provision of education services, they have been reducing the funding they receive for these functions. A growing number of schools in Sutton are converting to academy status and many more are in the process of assessing their options with a view to converting in the near future. In response to all this our Local Authority, London Borough of Sutton, has recently placed many of its educational functions into an arm's-length body and at the same time many of the services schools used to get from the Local Authority have reduced or disappeared altogether.

In the above context, the Governing Body and senior leaders here at Barrow Hedges have been considering whether it is in the best interests for the school to convert to academy status and if so which route would best suit us. Having attended a number of briefing sessions and discussed the options with several academy providers, the Governing Body has decided that it is indeed in the best interests of the school to commence the process of conversion. Our preferred route, one that we feel will enable us to retain our unique ethos, is to seek to join the Cirrus Trust which already runs one of our nearest neighbours.

We will shortly commence the initial consultations on this proposal which will involve all parents and staff. We will be holding meetings for the interested parties and will be distributing an information sheet. I shall write to you once arrangements have been made to invite you to consultation meetings to enable you to hear about the proposals in more detail and to give you an opportunity to express your views.

Meanwhile, the governors and staff of Barrow Hedges can assure you that none of this will affect the continued provision of a high quality education for your children.

Yours faithfully

**Mike Smith
Chair of Governors**

**Louise Wood
Headteacher**

Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA

Telephone 020 8643 4428
office@barrowhedges.com



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