



Delius Special School  
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23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and carers

We wrote to you on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to inform you the Governors of Delius had decided that the school should become an academy and join a Multi Academy Trust. We outlined the following:

### What is a Multi Academy Trust?

- A Multi Academy Trust (or "MAT") is a collection of one or more schools which have become academies.
- The local authority decides which children attend a MAT.
- MATs are inspected by Ofsted.
- The MAT receives funding directly from the government and is not part of the local authority.
- The academies within a MAT support each other and other schools.

### Why is Delius going to become an academy?

The Governing Body considered the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an academy and joining a MAT or staying as we are. There have been significant changes in the education sector: school funding has been cut and more cuts will take place in the future, changes at the local authority mean that it provides less support to schools and the government wants all schools to become academies by 2020. The Governors believe that joining a MAT will help Delius to continue to provide the best education possible to our pupils and to offer support to children with special educational needs who attend other schools.

### Why now?

Delius is a "good" school so we can choose when to become an academy and which MAT to join. If we wait too long, we may have less choice about which MAT to join.

Governors have considered various options, but are keen to join a MAT which:

- Shares our ethos and moral purpose
- Strengthens inclusive practice and support for families
- Strengthens and broadens our curriculum opportunities
- Protects our governance so the Local Governing Body continues to have decision-making powers
- Gives our Governors representation on the Board of Trustees
- Includes local special, mainstream, nursery, primary and secondary partners
- Fosters school to school support and improvement



**Safe Happy Learning**

**Education**

**Co Location**

**Co operation**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

- Embraces the local community
- Results in minimum changes to Delius's current provision
- Offers opportunities for stronger staff career development and expertise
- Retains the current staff conditions of service
- Maintains financial and education standards in time of austerity
- Allows us to maximise our skills and expertise in special educational needs for the benefit of all Bradford children

**On 21<sup>st</sup> March Delius Governing Body agreed to join Southfield Grange Trust as it meets all the above requirements.**

**Next Steps:**

- School will continue to consult with staff, pupils, families, stakeholders and the wider community
- The consultation will include meetings, Question and Answer sessions and further information
- Please check the Delius school website (google Delius Special School), letters and texts for further information

Please do not hesitate to contact either Sally Birkbeck, Chair of Governors or Sally Joy, headteacher at school, by phone 01274 666472, or by email [Office@deliusspecialschool.co.uk](mailto:Office@deliusspecialschool.co.uk)

Yours sincerely



Sally Birkbeck  
Chair of Governors

Sally Joy  
Headteacher