



Consultation to convert to Academy status and join Arête Learning Trust

Summary

(Full details overleaf)

What are we proposing?

- We are proposing to join the Arête Learning Trust (ALT) which is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

Who are the Arête Learning Trust?

- A MAT is a group of schools that have agreed to join together for funding, governance and school improvement purposes
- The Arête Learning Trust currently comprises of Northallerton School and Sixth Form College, Richmond School and Sixth Form College and Stokesley School and Sixth Form College
- ALT intends to include local primary schools to provide education for 3-19 year olds in the local area

Why are we proposing this?

- Government requires all schools to be part of a MAT by 2030
- We believe the Arête Learning Trust can offer support to help improve our school
- We believe the local nature of Arête Learning Trust will help improve transition and improve education across Northallerton

What will stay the same?

- Our school ethos and principles
- Our uniform
- Our staff and our staff terms, conditions and pensions
- Admissions
- The school will still have a Local Governing Body with parent and staff representatives

What will be different?

- Our funding will come directly from the government rather than through North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)
- Our School Governing Body will be overseen and supported by the Board Of Trustees of ALT
- The MAT will have improved access to government grants (e.g. for building improvements)
- Mill Hill staff will receive bespoke support for school improvement from the MAT rather than from NYCC

What benefits do we envisage from this?

- Greater availability of funding
- Improved transition between primary and secondary school
- Improved support for school improvement

What are the disadvantages?

- We don't believe there are any significant disadvantages to this arrangement

How do I respond to this consultation?

- Email : notify@millhill.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Letter : Chair of Governors via the school address

For more information please see overleaf or you are welcome to attend a meeting at the school on 1st November 2022 at 6pm



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More Detail

What are we proposing?

The Governing Body of Mill Hill Community Primary School are proposing to join the Arête Learning Trust (ALT) which is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The school is not obligated to becoming an academy and will not continue with the conversion to become an academy until parents and carers of pupils at the school, staff at the school, and the pupils themselves have had the opportunity to comment on whether the conversion should take place. Mill Hill's governors will only move forward if they are sure that the conversion is in the best interests of our school and community.

Who are the Arête Learning Trust?

It is proposed that Mill Hill Community Primary School will become an academy as part of Arête Learning Trust. A Multi Academy Trust is a group of schools, who receive funding directly from the government, that have agreed to join together for a shared purpose, school improvement and benefits for all pupils within the group. This means that Mill Hill will be part of an academy group currently comprising of Northallerton School and Sixth Form College, Richmond School and Sixth Form College and Stokesley School and Sixth Form College. Arête Learning Trust intends to include local primary schools to provide education for 3-19 year olds in the local area. Arête Learning Trust's by-line of 'being the best we can be' fits closely with Mill Hill's own philosophy for its pupils. The Trust also has a strong record of school improvement and all three schools have recently been rated as 'good' by Ofsted.

Why are we proposing this?

The Government's Education white paper requires all schools to be part of a MAT by 2030. Mill Hill's Governing Body have been proactive about this date and have looked at several Trusts choosing the one which they think is right for our school - pupils, staff and community. We believe the Arête Learning Trust can offer support to help improve our school to make sure that our pupils have the education offer which will support them to be the very best that they can be. We believe the local nature of Arête Learning Trust will help improve transition and improve education across Northallerton.

What will stay the same?

We do not intend to change Mill Hill except in ways that will improve the school even more – we are very proud of our school and want to retain our special ethos and character. One of the reasons that Mill Hill's governors have chosen Arête Learning Trust is that Mill Hill will still fundamentally be Mill Hill. For our pupils it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day-to-day lives. Our uniform, staff, staff terms and conditions, and our admissions policies will all remain the same as they are now. The daily life of the school will continue to be run, as now, by the headteacher and Local Governing Body (with parent and staff representatives). Our existing partnership activities with other local schools will continue as they do now, particularly around teaching and learning, curriculum enrichment, staff development, joint training and support for the young people in our local area.

What will be different?

In a MAT our funding will come directly from the government rather than through North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). This means that academies can receive more funding because none is retained by the local authority for the provision of central services. The most important differences in a MAT concern governance and accountability for the school. MATs are governed by a Board of Trustees who are chosen for their relevant skills and experience, their willingness to commit time to the role (they are unpaid), and their ability to both challenge and support the work of the schools. Our



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school's Local Governing Body would, therefore, be overseen and supported by the Board of Trustees of Arête Learning Trust. This provides Mill Hill with greater support for continued school improvement. Becoming part of a MAT also improves access to government grants (e.g. for building improvements) which would also help Mill Hill maintain and improve its current facilities.

What benefits do we envisage from this?

Many benefits have already been outlined including financial aspects as well as school support. We also feel that one of the key benefits for our children will be improved transition to secondary school with our pupils settling successfully enabling them to achieve their academic potential. Close working with secondary colleagues will help support our own curriculum development with access to specialists, as well as enhanced support for our pupils who may find the move for Y6 to Y7 challenging. A joined up approach to 3-19 year olds in our local area can be developed and this is beneficial to our whole community. Mill Hill's governors feel that being the first primary school to join Arête Learning Trust gives Mill Hill the chance to set up local systems and structures which are right for our pupils, parents and carers, staff and the wider local community.

What are the disadvantages?

Doing something different and new can be a worry but we believe that the advantages outweigh any potential disadvantages. There will be a 'learning' period during the transition from a Local Authority structure to a Multi Academy Trust structure and this may be more pronounced as we are the first primary school within Arête Learning Trust – as we have already outlined, we also see this as a potential benefit.

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Letter : Addressed to the Chair of Governors via the school address

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