



Be the best you can be!

Gayton Junior School
Gayton Avenue
Littleover
Derby
DE23 1GA

Tel: 01332 760372

Fax: 01332 764035

Email: admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Website: www.gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Headteacher:

Mrs J Hill – BA (Hons), NPQH

7th March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders,

Re: Proposed Academy Conversion

We are proposing that Gayton Junior School converts to an academy and joins The Odyssey Collaborative Trust.

The education landscape is changing, as evidenced by the many schools in the city that have already converted to academy status or are currently considering this adjustment.

For that reason, during the last 12 months, Gayton's Governing Board and the school's Senior Leadership Team have been exploring the possibility of converting to academy status, looking carefully into the benefits and potential drawbacks, as well as discovering more about the range of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) available for us to join.

Having considered carefully how any change in status will benefit our school, we have identified one MAT, Odyssey Collaborative Trust, who we feel are the perfect match for our diverse and inclusive school. We are confident that by joining Oydsey Collaborative Trust, Gayton will continue to thrive and be able to offer the best possible education for your children. There will be huge benefits that further collaboration with Odyssey will bring to Gayton and we believe that joining them will be an exceptionally positive step for our school. Therefore we are keen to move the formal conversion process a step further.

We are committed to continual improvement and will always make decisions based on what is in the best interests of our pupils, staff and all school stakeholders; however, it is therefore very important, that we take every opportunity to consult widely with you, and are transparent in our communications.

It is for this reason that we are writing to you now to invite you to give your comments either in writing or online – details of how to do this are on the next page or on our website (link below).

To help you, please visit our consultation pages on the school website where you will find some key information about Odyssey, and the reasons we believe that joining their Collaborative Trust will only make Gayton Junior School stronger: <https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/academisation-consultation-with-stakeholders/>

Key information for parents:

- There will be NO change to the name of the school and NO changes to the uniform.
- There will be NO changes to school holidays.
- There will be NO changes to INSET days, in alignment with Ridgeway.

As our partner feeder school, Ridgeway Infant School are also looking to acadamise with TEAM Education Trust: both Mrs Dale and myself would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents that the decision to join different trusts has been well-thought out and researched by senior leaders and the governing board, with outcomes for pupils as the highest priority.



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Both schools, along with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of each trust, have already met and are committed to ensuring we continue our close working relationship that has benefitted our pupils so well over the last six years.

Representations should be made either in writing by completing the feedback form provided, or electronically by using the following <https://forms.office.com/e/AnfrYM7W1D> The closing date for representations is **Friday 18th April at 3:30pm**. We will circulate answers to all of your questions.

If any parents would like to meet with the Governors or representatives of Odyssey to discuss further our rationale behind the proposed academy conversion, we will conduct a public meeting following the consultation period. **Please indicate on the feedback form whether you would be interested in attending this meeting. Arrangements will be confirmed based on the number of responses received.**

For your reference, we have included a Frequently Asked Questions page on our website that is Odyssey/Gayton specific.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of Gayton Junior School. We believe that we have a truly wonderful school here and are exceptionally committed to ensuring we provide the very best for our pupils and their families.

We all want the pupils at Gayton to be placed in the strongest position for the future, and as such, the priority of the Governing Board and school leaders must be to enable Gayton to continue to provide excellent education for our children, retaining our unique qualities and strengths whilst protecting the school's role at the heart of our community.

We feel that the exciting opportunities afforded through partnership with Odyssey will allow Gayton pupils to excel in all that they do, achieve excellent outcomes, and leave our school fully prepared to achieve their ambitions. Our children will positively thrive if we are able to continue to embrace the opportunities generously offered by the Trust.

We hope that you will continue to place your trust and faith in us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Hill
Headteacher
head@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

S. Kandola

Mrs S Kandola
Chair of Governors
via admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk



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Gayton Junior School

Proposed Academy Conversion Feedback Form (Parents/Carers)

The Governors would value any comments/questions from you, regarding the proposal to become an Academy. Please complete and return the feedback form to the school office, or complete the survey electronically via the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/AnfrYM7W1D> by Friday 18th April at 3:30pm.

Please provide your name and contact details. This will enable us to respond to a specific query. Alternatively, we're happy for you to remain anonymous.

1. Do you support the decision for Gayton Junior School to become an academy?

Yes No Not Sure

Comments to support answer:



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2. The proposal is that the school will be an academy within Odyssey Collaborative Trust. Do you agree with this partnership arrangement?

Yes No Not Sure

Comments to support answer:

3. Do you have any concerns or questions about the proposal that have not been answered through the information already provided? If so, what are they?

4. Would you be interested in attending a public meeting with Governors and members from Odyssey Collaborative Trust to discuss our proposals?

Yes No



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