

Halsnead Primary School

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Strive to Achieve

Dear all,

We wanted to write to you all about our proposal to change the name of our school.

Firstly, thank you. Whatever your views, it has been truly heartening to see the regard in which the school is held. The truth is, however, that we want to unite and support our community – not divide it.

As it stands, nearly 80% of our existing parents support the move to change the name. Over 90% of staff would also like to see a change, and all of the children who have signed the survey, albeit a relatively small number, would prefer the school to have a new identity.

This view is not, however, mirrored in the wider community where less than a third of people are supportive. Our former pupils, former parents and our local residents are an important part of our family too. As a result, we are not going to proceed with changing the name of the school.

We will, however, continue with the plans we are implementing to ensure that our school is in the best possible position to support children for the world that awaits them in the future.

That being said, we are saddened that we don't recognise the vast majority of names or haven't recently heard from the people who have put comments on social media, signed petitions and sent letters saying that the school is so important to them. Part of our reason from moving from our hope to change our name is that we want to better engage with these people.

Moving forward, please do champion our school and engage with us. We would hate for the surge of support and positivity for the school to be lost, or worse that it turns into something less positive for our current children, current parents and current staff through the protests at our school gates that have been threatened. Together we can achieve a great deal.

There are also a couple of other things we wanted to clarify based on the responses to our survey. We are not changing the name because we are becoming an academy and setting up our own academy trust. We have actually been an academy in a trust for a number of years. This process was not driven by a desire to hide our Ofsted reports or historical results. In fact, we are proud of the progress we are making, and those results and reports are part of our current journey. Our plans for working with our community on this name change were impacted by Covid, it was never our intention for people outside of our parents and staff to feel this was forced upon them.

Given that our staff, parents and children are so keen for us to mark the fact that they are part of a new era for the school, it is likely that we will continue to look at consulting and evolving other elements of the identity of the school over the coming months. This will not, however, include the name.

Thank you once again for all your support and feedback. We really do hope that the last few days can be the start of something special.

Miss Taylor
Halsnead Primary School