

Windmill Primary School



08.03.2018

Re. Nene Learning Trust (formerly Manor Learning Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to those parents/carers who came along to our recent 'listening meeting' where our proposed move to a new academy trust was discussed. It was a very low turnout, so for those who couldn't come, please find some information below.

I am writing to update you a little bit about the situation that we find ourselves in and let you know why I, our leadership team, governing body and the whole staff here at Windmill believe that the proposed move to work with Nene Learning Trust is the way forward for our wonderful school.

A year ago we were informed that The Education Fellowship Trust (our current Trust) was going to cease to exist, meaning that we would have to find/be found a new 'sponsor'. To cut a long story very short, the initial decision by the Regional Schools Commissioner (Martin Post) was that we would be going to be moving to a London-based Trust. I met with this trust on numerous occasions and realised pretty much immediately that this wouldn't be the right fit for our school. It was clear that they would have wanted to change everything about Windmill; everything that we are so proud to say works for our children and our community.

So...

I fought. A lot! With the backing of our Senior Leadership team and Governing Body, I had meetings with various different highly-influential people to ensure that the best outcome was achieved for our school. Thankfully, we managed to dissuade the Department for Education from their original decision and have got to the position we are now, where a local Trust is our preferred option.

Through linking up with other local schools, we can retain our autonomy and work with schools that operate in similar contexts to us. The ethos and culture of Windmill Primary will not change and I believe that it would have done if we had been placed with the London-based Trust.

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The make-up of Nene Learning Trust has evolved and will continue to develop, with us here at Windmill driving through the changes. Chris Hill, who is currently the Interim CEO, has a very similar vision and ethos to myself – we are on the same page in terms of the opportunities that we want to be offering our children. I believe that this is a very positive move for our school.

I am very happy to discuss this further, either over the phone or by email. Your opinion really does matter to us and I would like to make sure that as key stakeholders in our school, you are given all the information as we move forward into these exciting new times.

To reiterate, we believe that this is the right move for our school and community.

Please click the below link to access the online survey...

<https://kwiksurveys.com/s/XgpMIDhb>

Please do get in touch if you have any questions and thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Coleman', written in a cursive style.

Matt Coleman