



Unsworth Primary School

Blackley Close, Unsworth,
Bury, Lancashire BL9 8LY

Head Teacher: Mrs C Reynolds BA (HONs)
Deputy Head: Mr A Rhodes BA (HONs)

www.unsworth-primary.co.uk

Contact Us

Telephone: 0161 766 4876

Email: unsworth@bury.gov.uk

22nd April, 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to announce that our Governing Body has met and proposes that Unsworth Primary School should convert to Multi-Academy Trust status. We are hoping initially to form a formal partnership with our long-standing partner school, Christ Church, Walshaw CE Primary School and one other primary school which we will sponsor. The Governing Bodies at both schools have considered the current changes that are affecting schools as well as the factors that will impact on us in the future. Both have voted to proceed with the proposal to form such a trust. Our next step is to formalise our third school.

Academies are **state** schools that are funded directly by the government rather than through the local authority. They have to establish strong and effective systems of accountability and governance to ensure that they are successful and provide the highest possible standards of education and care for children. At Unsworth we consider that this is what we do and, in order to protect our school and its children and families in the future, we feel the time is right to join with others in order to be 'stronger together'. Our multi-academy trust will be known as the **Bury Together Trust**.

Individual schools will be facing huge pressures over the next five years and it is now widely accepted that groups of schools working together in collaboration are best placed to provide security and strength to their communities. Well over half of all secondary schools in the country are already academies as are around twenty per cent of primary schools. The number is increasing quite rapidly.

In moving forward with this proposal, we are aiming to secure the long-term direction of our school. We will ensure that the distinctive nature of Unsworth Primary School remains but we will work with others to further develop using the flexibilities that come with academy status. We have always embraced change as a school but we never lose sight of the ethos and values that make our school what it is. This is an opportunity to be at the forefront of a change that is coming to all schools and to shape the nature of the trust we form. We remain firmly committed to Bury and will still strive to work in partnership with the local authority as we evolve.

Parents' and carers' information sessions will be held on Tuesday, 26th April at 9am and Wednesday, 27th April at 6pm. At each meeting you will have the opportunity to ask questions and hear from leaders and governors as to why we feel this is the right direction for our school. If you visit our website, we have created a page with some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) which will address some of your immediate questions. There is a prominent link on the home page of our website at www.unsworth-primary.co.uk

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You can also submit any questions or comments in advance of the meeting to the school office. Please address them to Mr Sam Cohen (Chair of Governors). Alternatively, you can send them via email to unsworth@bury.gov.uk or you can come along to the meeting and join in the discussion.

The leaders and governors in each of our schools firmly believe that this is the best way forward and will provide an exciting opportunity to both protect the individuality of each school and to collaborate for a successful future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sam Cohen
Chair of Governors

Mrs. C. Reynolds
Headteacher





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