



Robert Piggott CofE Infant & Junior Federation

Executive Headteacher: Ms Vanessa O'Byrne
Beverley Gardens Wargrave Berks RG10 8ED
Tel: (0118) 940 2414
E: admin@robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk

Chair of Governors: Mr Owen Rees
School Hill Wargrave Berks RG10 8DY
Tel: (0118) 940 2645

E: schooloffice@robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk

Website: robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk

19th January 2024

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers of Robert Piggott Infant School and Robert Piggott Junior School

We, as governors, have previously written to you with regards to our outline plans for our schools to convert to become academies and join the Agape Multi-Academy Trust (Agape).

I am writing to you today to inform you that the formal consultation will start on Monday 22nd January 2024 and run until Monday 15th March 2024.

Why now?

As you will recall from our letter in the summer, the governors of our two schools have been considering the right strategy for taking the schools forward into the future. An increasing number of schools in England are part of multi-academy trusts (MAT), groups of schools working together to share resources and leadership and improve outcomes for children.

We think the time is right for us to join a MAT for three principal reasons:

1. as small schools, we believe that joining a MAT will allow us access to economies of scale and specialist support;
2. joining a MAT will provide the schools with greater freedom and flexibility which will enable us to respond to financial and other challenges; and
3. working with other schools in a MAT will enable us to continue to grow and develop our staff, ensuring that our quality of education remains high.

As a governing body, we set up a working party to look in detail at what joining a MAT would mean for our schools and what we would look for in a MAT, with the staff governors closely involved in the discussions and decision making of the working party. We then met with a number of MATs and discussed whether they were the right fit. At the completion of this process, as a board of governors, we have made an initial decision that Agape, which is being set up by The Piggott School and Altwood Church of England School, was the best potential home for our schools.

In choosing Agape, we also considered how our schools would support and work within the MAT to ensure that they receive the best possible support as primary schools. Agape will include the Piggott Charvil Primary School and has clear plans to support the primary school curriculum and continue the work with the Schools Learning Alliance and the development of internal capacity as Agape grows.

Agape MAT Vision

'A collaboration of schools that aims to enhance the educational experiences and outcomes for children aged 4-18; maximizing and sharing the benefits of working together whilst maintaining the individual culture and ethos of each individual school'



Agape will include the following schools on formation (due to be 1st March 2024):

- The Piggott School, Wokingham (including Charvil Piggott Primary School)
- Altwood C of E School, Maidenhead

Agape will expand over the coming years to include other secondary and primary schools.

The benefits for the schools in Agape are support for each other with regards to teaching, learning, educational outcomes, leadership and back office functions.

The Agape MAT model will be 'mixed articles' meaning that both church and non-church schools will be able to join.

It is important to state that each school in Agape retains their own individuality, culture and ethos. All schools benefit from shared resources, school improvement strategies, procurement, experience and talent.

Consultation meeting with Staff

We will be speaking with teachers and support staff on **Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 3.30pm.**

Consultation meeting with Parents

A parent consultation event will be held on **Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 5:30pm.**

The consultations finish on 15th March 2024.

A final decision on joining the Agape MAT will be taken by the Governing Body following these consultations, due diligence processes and final agreement by the Regional Schools Director.

Please find attached to this letter an executive summary containing information about the Agape MAT process and structure.

If you have questions regarding Agape or MAT conversion, the executive summary should provide these and we would hope to answer any further questions during the consultation meetings. If you would like to send a question in advance, please e-mail to: chair@robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk. If you would like to submit a formal response to the consultation for the Governing Body to consider, please email the Clerk to Governors at clerk@robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk or write to them via the School Office.

We hope that you too will be excited by the potential benefits this collaboration can offer our schools. We look forward to your contributions to the process.

Yours faithfully



Owen Rees
Chair of Governors