



# KESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. C. Murphy, BA, PGCE, NPQH

Keston Avenue  
Old Coulsdon  
SurreCR5 1HP  
Tel: 01737 555103  
Email: [office@keston.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@keston.croydon.sch.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents

In the current financial and political landscape there are many challenges for all schools: these include reduced funding; recruitment and retention of staff; and deterioration and ongoing maintenance of school premises. As parents will be aware, there have additionally been various directives from the government regarding moving to academy status; although a decision to move in this direction at present would be our choice, made independently from any government pressure.

Several months ago the Keston Governing Body was approached by the PACE Academy Trust (currently consisting of Chipstead Valley, New Valley and Beecholme Primary Schools) and given the opportunity to join as a key partner in the Academy Trust.

Our strong track record of high academic attainment has meant that we have been pursued by a number of different academy trusts over the last few years. However, after many months of discussion, consultation and due diligence, the Governors concluded that PACE, which is a strong, local and small trust, mirrors Keston's mission, vision and values and would therefore enable us to develop as a school whilst safeguarding our own identity.

The Governors at Keston have held the children's best interests at the forefront of this important decision making process and feel that in order to continue to provide continuity for the children and further increase and improve facilities, the move into a shared values trust would be a positive one.

The Governing Body believe that PACE is the right choice for us because:

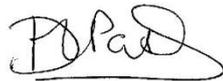
- It is an outstanding provider with a proven track record in school improvement which will enable us to share and develop our practice;
- It will enhance our children's educational experiences through the sharing of resources across the Trust;
- Keston has well established working links with the strong and experienced leadership team from PACE;
- Working with PACE we will be able to provide further opportunities for staff to work alongside a wider range of colleagues to shape future developments;
- It will enable us to continue to attract and retain high quality staff
- We will have the opportunity to access additional funding for building and sites;
- It will enable us to secure cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services
- By making the decision at this point in time, we will have two members of our current Governing Body sitting as Trust Directors therefore ensuring our vision and values are maintained.



The Governing Body unanimously voted to pursue this process at this time with the reassurance that the school will maintain its unique identity and individuality and continue to be overseen by its own local governing body. The children have, at all times, been at the centre of this decision making process.

An application has been made to the DfE (Department for Education) as a start to this process. We hope to hear from the department later this month at which point the Governors will commence the consultation process with parents and staff.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Miriam Massey / Mrs Dipa Patel  
Co- Chair of Governors

Mrs Claire Murphy  
Headteacher

