

Subject:	Moulsecoomb Primary School Survey of Parental Views		
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard Barker,	Tel: 01273 290732
	Email:	richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk,	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The report informs the Children, Young People and Skills Committee of the arrangements for managing the ballot of parents/carers at Moulsecoomb Primary School in response to the issuing of an academy order by the Secretary of State for Education.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee note that the ballot of parents/carers at Moulsecoomb Primary School is taking place.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the CYPS Committee there was discussion about the recent academy order that had been issued for Moulsecoomb Primary School. Given the concerns expressed by Members of the committee a ballot to establish the view of parents is being facilitated by the Council.
- 3.2 Whilst it is understood that many people within the community would wish to express a view, the ballot is only for parent/carers who have children registered at the school at the start of the academic year 2019/20. This ballot is not part of the formal academy order process.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the ballot will ask the question, "Do you want the school to become an academy?" Parent/carers will be able to respond either yes or no.
- 3.4 Consideration has been given to the number of response forms to be issued. It seems appropriate to allocate one response form to the family of each child registered at the school and require the family to determine how they vote, should the views within the family not be the same.
- 3.5 Colleagues in Electoral Services will provide a 'ballot paper file' to the school that can then be used to print response forms. It is expected that a return envelope will also be supplied together with a ballot box so that parent/carers can physically return their response forms to the school if they prefer.

- 3.6 Subsequently a count will be arranged at a council building.
- 3.7 There are costs associated with the ballot process including charges for the supply of return envelopes and the supply of count staff depending upon how the governing body choose to conduct the survey.
- 3.8 The vote is planned to run from the start of term for 3 full weeks. The school reopened to pupils on 5 September 2019.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The survey is not part of the formal academy order process and the council is not required to help facilitate the ballot.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The ballot will be seeking the views of parents/carers of children attending the school.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Committee are asked to note the actions being taken to allow for the balloting of parent/carer views on whether they want Moulsecomb Primary School to become an academy.
- 6.2 Parent/carers with children attending the school at the start of the academic year 2019/20 will be asked, "Do you want the school to become an academy?" and will be able to respond either yes or no.
- 6.3 This is not a formal part of the academy order process and while the outcome of the ballot will be shared with the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner they are not required to take this into account when determining the future of the school.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The costs of the ballot will be met from within existing resources in the Families, Children and Learning directorate.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 03/09/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 When an Academy Order is issued under section 4 (A1) of the Academies Act 2010 (i.e. where a school has been judged inadequate by Ofsted) there is no statutory requirement to carry out any form of consultation with interested parties, including parents, beforehand. The proposed ballot seeks to inform the Office of the Regional Commissioner for Schools (RSC) of the views of parents of

registered pupils at the school. However the RSC is under no obligation to take these views into account when making decisions about the future of the school.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 29/09/2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. The report provides information for the Committee to note and the school will be ensuring all parent/carers with children attending the school at the start of the academic year 2019/20 will be able to respond to the survey.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications in relation to this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 There are no other significant implications in relation to this report.

