

18th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Governing Body of Copeland Road is considering becoming a member of the **Advance Learning Partnership (ALP)** Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Government policy is very clear that MAT status is something which is strongly supported and has the potential to drive further improvement in the education system. The governors would like to ensure that our staff, pupils and parents understand our reasons for considering this change and the benefits we believe this opportunity will bring.

The governors are proud of Copeland Road and its pupils and staff and are keen to see the school continue to develop and grow stronger. With continued changes to the way the school system is organised and funded, working in partnership is essential. A MAT is a formal partnership of schools, all with unique identities and features, working within a single Trust. Through a MAT we can collaborate with, learn from, and gain support other schools.

Collaborative working offers many benefits for pupils and staff, sharing best practice in teaching and learning, curriculum collaboration, extra-curricular opportunities, staff development, human resources, legal services, school improvement structures and governance arrangements. We also believe that by working together we can make our money go further and keep school funding focussed on teaching and learning.

To date, Governors have considered a range of potential MAT partners, focusing especially on compatibility of ethos, visions, and values. We believe that the Advance Learning Partnership (ALP) shares our ethos of full inclusion, high expectations, outstanding teaching and learning and a relentless focus on the needs and potential of every child. We believe that joining ALP could strengthen both the MAT and our school, providing access to far wider educational and personal development opportunities for our pupils and staff. The Department for Education and Local Authority agree that ALP will provide us with the best opportunities to improve our school.

We will continue to have our own local governing body, called an Academy Council, providing the day-to-day support and challenge for the leadership of our school. The Academy Council would include membership from parents of children who attend Copeland Road.

Further information on our school joining the ALP Multi-Academy Trust can be found in the 'MAT FAQs' attachment. This will also be added to our school website. You are also welcome to contact school with feedback or comments about the process of joining the ALP MAT at copelandroad@durhamlearning.net. Additionally, we are offering the opportunity to talk directly with Advance Learning Partnership at School on Tuesday 2nd October at 3:30pm where ALP will be available to provide further information on the proposed partnership and answer any questions you have.

The closing date to submit comments is noon on Friday 18th October.

I thank you for your continued support of the school and look forward to working together to ensure Copeland Road is at the heart of our community, serving and supporting our young people and ensuring that every pupil receives an outstanding education.

Yours sincerely,
Robin Nodding
Chair of Governors