



MARDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Marden, Hereford. HR1 3EW

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Orton BA (Hons)Ed  
Head of School: Ms Z Evans BA (Hons) Ed

**Marden Primary Academy  
Hereford Marches Federation of Academies Consultation Letter**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The Executive Head and Trustees of Marden Primary Academy, would like to provide some context surrounding the proposal for Marden Primary Academy to cease being a Stand Alone Academy (SAT) and to fully join the Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies (HMFA) Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

We would like to open a consultation for a period of 6 weeks.

**This local consultation will open on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 12 noon.**

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please send your comments to:

[admin@marden.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@marden.hereford.sch.uk)

or

**Clerk to Governors**

c/o Mrs Liz Beecham

Marden Primary Academy

Marden

Hereford

HR1 3EW

**Please ensure that your response reaches us by noon on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the latest.**

Marden Academy is a small village primary, on a relatively new site, set in a rural county serving a scattered community with a large proportion of elderly residents. Outline planning permission (150989/O) was granted in 2017 for 90 dwellings on land at new House Farm, Marden. The principal of residential development has been accepted. A reserved matters planning application has been submitted.

Children transfer from a number of early year providers, though the majority transfer predominantly from Marden Pre-school (an independent setting rated Outstanding during its last Ofsted) who share the school site. We have increasing numbers and next year we are expecting 21 children to transition from Pre-school. There are strong links between the Reception Class and the pre-school with an effective transition process in place. The Pre-School is in the process of further expanding its provision and will be erecting an additional building on the school site in the near future.

Marden converted to Academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 and federated with the HMFA under a collaboration agreement.

HMFA is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of 4 schools; Lord Scudamore, Sutton, Kings Caple and St Weonards. Each of these schools has a Governing Committee (Local Advisory Board). The HMFA MAT has a Board of Trustees with representation from each of the 4 MAT schools.

An additional 4 schools are part of the wider Federation under a collaboration agreement with the Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies; Llangrove, Marden, Clehonger and Pencombe. Each of these schools has its own Board of Governors.

Marden has spent the last 8 years working closely with schools in the Federation and has been able to buy in shared services to support the pupils within Marden Primary Academy. This has included the services of the Safeguarding and SEND Directors. Marden has also been able to access in-house support from a Family Support Worker, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist and more recently, an Executive Headteacher.

Being an academy has allowed Marden to continue to thrive and we are seeing an on-going trend of growing numbers of pupils attending.

We have been able to have:

- More autonomy
- The freedom to choose whether to engage with initiatives
- Better value for money
- The time and freedom to focus on teaching and learning
- Increased investment in our children's futures

Marden staff have been excited to have been part of the wider Federation over the past 8 years and feel that now is the right time to apply to be a full member of the HMFA MAT, hence this consultation.

Marden staff and Governors believe that whilst working closely with the schools across the Federation, Marden Primary Academy has maintained its unique identity, adding to the rich portfolio of the HMFA. The school has been rated as Good by Ofsted during all inspections since 2009. It is financially sound and operates well working as part of the wider Federation.

However, we believe that joining the HMFA MAT will further strengthen the future of the school through:

- Increased investment in our children's futures
- Shared vision for the highest standards of educational experiences – academically, socially and emotionally
- The flexibility to employ staff to work across all MAT schools
- Better value for money (shared central services such as Finance and HR)
- Less bureaucracy
- The opportunity to bid for capital projects to build new classrooms
- Continued time and freedom to focus on teaching and learning
- Being able to contribute towards CPD (continuing professional development) opportunities for the HMFA.

We hope that you will support this proposal for Marden Primary Academy to join the HMFA Multi Academy Trust. The application process will run alongside the consultation. Both Marden Academy and the HMFA will follow a process of due diligence to ensure that the



decision to join the MAT is the way forward for everyone. The responses from this consultation will be taken into consideration during the application process.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank parents, carers and all interested parties for their support during the consultation process. The future of the schools within the HMFA MAT - Lord Scudamore, Sutton, Kings Cople, St Weonards and, if they are accepted, Marden, is very exciting and we look forward to providing the children with even better opportunities in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the e-mail address above if you have any further questions or feedback.

Kind Regards

*Steve Miles*

Mr Steve Miles  
Marden Academy Chair of Governors

