



# Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School

Royle Avenue, Glossop, Derbyshire. SK13 7RD

Head teacher: Mrs E Bland

Tel: 01457 852635

Email: [info@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk)

[www.dukenorfolk.co.uk](http://www.dukenorfolk.co.uk)

*From tiny acorns, great forests grow*

## Governor Bulletin: Important Notice to Parents

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,

I wrote to you all on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 regarding the letter we received from the Regional Director from the Department for Education (DfE) informing us that the DfE are considering ordering our school to become part of a multi-academy trust (MAT). This was based on the view that Duke's met the definition of a coasting school (not making necessary improvements) and that all schools with a consecutive less than Good Ofsted judgements become part of a MAT.

In making their decision, the DfE gave the school's governing body the opportunity to provide representations in response to the letter. At an Extraordinary Governing Board held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the Governors voted unanimously to make representations against the academy order.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the DfE confirmed that they have reviewed the representation in assessing the capacity and capability to achieve rapid and sustained improvements at the school. Using all available evidence, the **DfE have confirmed that, at present, they have decided not to issue an academy order at this stage.** In addition, the DfE praised the supporting evidence in the representations, and made a particular note of the work done with the Derbyshire County Council school improvement advisors, which they said demonstrated the improvements made so far, and the school's willingness to access school improvement support to further raise standards.

This is fantastic news and testament to the hard work and dedication of the Senior Leadership Team in driving forward improvements since the last Ofsted inspection.

Understandably, the DfE have stated that they will continue to monitor our school to ensure that progress is maintained; and rapid and sustained improvement is being delivered. In doing so, the DfE reserve the right to intervene in the future should the circumstances change.

The governing body will continue to work with the Senior Leadership Team to implement the School Improvement Plan to further drive improvements, so that every child accesses a good standard of education, and ultimately, ensuring that the school is a place where your child can grow and develop.

Best regards,

Tom Plant  
Chair of Governors