



## Do you know...?

- The proposal to join 'Every Child Every Day Academy Trust' was decided upon in June 2016 without our trusted teaching and support staff being involved (for example, both deputy headteachers Deborah Lane and Emma Claridge were on maternity leave; and there is currently a vacancy for an elected staff governor on the Governing Body). There is no plan to ballot staff or parents and carers about this decision.
- Our Chair of Governors, Jane Spencer is also a trustee of 'Every Child Every Day' and of 'Achieving for Children' (the company that runs Children's Services and Education Support in the boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Kingston).
- The governing body has already made an application to the Secretary of State for Education to convert to an academy and join 'Every Child Every Day'. Is the consultation therefore genuine and open-minded about what you think?
- Darell would no longer exist as a separate legal entity if it joins 'Every Child Every Day'. The building and playground would be sold and if 'Every Child Every Day' decided to change the name of Darell, change its uniform, or alter how it is run, it would be able to just do that – whatever staff and parents and even governors think. Staff could find that they were required to move to other schools in the trust - they would no longer be employed by Darell and the local authority. There is no going back once a trust is joined!
- Other local primary schools have not taken the same decision to academise, even though they face the same financial constraints as Darell and are funded in the same way. Why are Darell's governing body pushing for this future? Where would savings come from in a multi-academy trust?
- Our Governors have stated that an advantage of joining the trust would be to be a part of a 'family' of schools, but Darell pupils would not get any benefit in terms of priority in admissions to Grey Court (or Hollyfield in Surbiton!), nor is it practical for us to share their facilities due to their location. Darell is already able to cooperate and share good practice with other schools in the area.
- Converting to an academy will be a lot of extra work for already over-stretched staff, with no evidence so far of academisation having a positive effect on children's attainment. Do you want your children's teachers to be distracted from their task of teaching and taken up with more admin?! Some of our best teachers may not even want to remain in post in an academy school.

*Parent satisfaction surveys, past results and our previous OFSTED inspection have demonstrated that children thrive at Darell, so why do we need to fix something that isn't broken?*

*Let's not forget that Darell was the Richmond Borough Council's first primary school, opened in 1906, and has educated generations of families in the local community. It is a unique, precious and special place! Do you love it and not want it to be sold?*



READ MORE AT: [lovedarell.co.uk](http://lovedarell.co.uk)

There are two presentations by ECEDAT at the school next week: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00 pm & Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 9.00 am.