Friday 3rd November 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to inform you that Dormansland Primary School has withdrawn from the consultation and due diligence processes for our conversion to become an academy with Temple Grove Academy Trust, with immediate effect.

This was a unanimous decision taken by the Governing Body and not one that has been taken lightly. Despite being a considerable way along the route of academy conversion, it has become increasingly clear to the Governors and senior school leaders that this particular partnership is no longer the best course of action for our school to take. Following a number of changes at the Trust, our more recent discussions with TGAT have highlighted some fundamental differences in values and proposed operational matters between the school and the Trust, resulting in a loss of trust in how the partnership would benefit the school in the longer term.

This partnership has not been without its benefits. The work that we have been able to do over the past year to develop our outdoor learning scheme with the education team at the Ashdown Forest has been made entirely possible through our participation as an Affiliate School with the Trust. Given that this funding stream will now end, and with external budget constraints affecting us in much the same way as they are other schools nationally, senior school leaders will need to look at alternative ways of sustaining this provision for the future.

We remain committed to striving for the best possible outcomes for the children and families at Dormansland and will continue to explore future collaborative opportunities that best serve the interests of our school and the wider local community. The feedback that we received from our parent consultation last term was extremely helpful and will continue to inform our discussions as we move forward. We will, of course, keep you updated with any milestones that we reach as part of this process.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Stokes