

Hob Moor Oaks School and the Ebor Academy Trust



Useful Information

As you are aware the Hob Moor Federation is currently consulting about whether it should join the Ebor Academy Trust. I'm sure there are many questions which you'd like answered at this point. I've put together some useful information just about Hob Moor Oaks as we are a unique resource within York and therefore the questions you have will be different to those of Primary parents. We are proud of our school and the great teaching and learning opportunities which we provide for our children. However we move forward in the future we intend to maintain our unique qualities.

1. The Oaks staff team is brilliant. They are some of the most dedicated and committed professionals I've ever met and are the heart and soul of our school. Whilst I can't force them to stay with us forever (although I would love to) please rest assured that I have no plans to change any current staffing levels or staff members. Pupils will continue to be in small class groups with a high level of experienced staff to support them.
2. Pupil placements will remain the same and we will continue to take pupils from our 3 local authorities York, North Yorkshire and East Riding. Places are secure and guaranteed. We are a growing school and certain classes are already 'full'. We are exploring ways to offer more places for pupils who need our specialist support. We will still offer the opportunity for dual placements with local schools at the request of parents.
3. Admissions will remain the same. We will continue to work alongside the 3 local authorities to agree placements and admissions criteria. We will continue to serve a wide area (which is ever increasing). Admissions pathways will remain the same.
4. We have already met with York Council to assure them of our continued collaboration and consultation. It is really important to us that families have a simple pathway to follow to get in Oaks and that they are guided and supported all the way!
5. Transitions at Year 6 will continue as usual, it will not affect Year 7 school placements for our school leavers now or in the future. Our pastoral team will continue to support families with school visits and transitions.
6. The health team are run and funded by the NHS and as far as we are aware this support will remain exactly the same and continue to be based in school. The same is applicable for the Physio, OT and Speech and Language Therapy teams. We work alongside these teams all the time, they are an integral part of the support given to children. Any changes to their teams are run and managed by the NHS.
7. The local authorities will still have a legal obligation to provide transport for children to go to, and from, Hob Moor Oaks.
8. The provision offers which children have in their EHCPs/statements will continue to be fully met, just as they are now. There will still be regular reviews of progress, chances to talk to staff and teachers and home/school liaison.
9. Funding for all of our 'high need' pupils will be the same and individual pupils 'top-up' funding will continue to come from the different local authorities.
10. Access to Educational Psychology support will remain the same. We already have highly qualified specialists for Autism etc... in school and we will continue to use them to support children, families and other staff after admission.
11. We will continue to have close links with other special school settings – Applefields (and their satellite provision), St Paul's Nursery and other partner schools out of York City.

As you can see much of what we do will remain the same. However, we hope there will be additional benefits for the children:

- The chance to apply for funding to extend our premises (which are getting very full) and to develop specific provision which we feel a special school should have (rebound room, baking room etc...).
- The opportunity to spend our funding more flexibly (e.g. buying in additional speech and language therapy time, spending more on specialist training for staff members, parents and partner schools, providing more home/school support for families).
- Freedom from the national curriculum and the ability to really tailor our curriculum to exactly what our individual learners need (even more than we already do).
- The Ebor Trust finance department can support us in writing bids for individual communication aids, improving playgrounds, exploring funding for holiday provision etc...

I suspect that all of this information may raise more questions than answers!

If you would like to contact me or discuss anything further then please feel free to e.mail me on Vicki.Ward@hmcc.york.sch.uk or call me at school on 01904 555000.

It would be great to hear your views during this consultation period whatever your thoughts may be. A well-considered decision can then be made.

Best wishes,

Vicki Ward

Head of School.