

Grasmere Academy – Parent and Family Information Session 20.10.2023

Comments, Questions and Answers

Where similar questions were raised during the meeting, via email or by utilising the online feedback form, both before and after the meeting, these have been summarised in to one reply below

Would Grasmere Academy still transfer to Smart if Stephenson Memorial Primary School took the decision not to join?

Trustees at Grasmere are keen to ensure both SMPS and GMA both join Smart Multi Academy Trust. As the Executive Headteacher Kerry Lillico leads both schools extremely well it makes sense to formalise her role across both schools. Executive Headship across two schools is already a model well known to the Smart and it is seen to be very successful.

Smart has 8 schools already, what do two more schools mean to you?

Smart's growth strategy has been to respond positively to any school who likes what the Trust does for its schools and wishes to explore partnership. We are constantly looking for like-minded leaders and staff who want the best for their pupils, parents and communities. There are a number of mutual benefits to growth from greater financial sustainability to a more diverse and engaged staff willing to share good ideas and learn from each other. No one has the monopoly on good ideas!

Is there a limit to the growth of Smart Multi Academy Trust?

Smart is currently working with 5 schools at various stages of growth. We want to remain a locally based primary only MAT and we want growth to be both positive and sustainable so we will only grow at a speed that enables us to continue to provide the best possible education to all of our pupils.

What will happen if the current government changes? Are you prepared to take things in a different direction if needed?

The decision for GA to join Smart has been taken from the standpoint of it will benefit staff and pupils to do so. This is not a political decision. It is about what is best for the pupils and the vision leaders have for excellence in provision. There is a lot made of the politics of academisation in the past, but the system is here to stay and currently all political parties are committed to ensuring that all pupils regardless of the type of school they attend receive a good education.