

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 8 January 2009

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION/TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To inform Members of SOAB of the current situation regarding Foundation/Trust proposals

FOR INFORMATION

Background

1. (1) A paper was presented to SOAB on 17 October 2007 informing Members of the Government's encouragement of all schools to consider Foundation/Trust status, and of the 'fast track' procedures to achieve it. These procedures require a governing body to consult 'interested parties' (including the LA) over a minimum of a four week period, before determining themselves.

Determinations

2. (1) Since the last report to the Board there has been one new determination reported to the local authority. On 10 December 2008 a letter was received from **Oakwood Park Grammar School**, Maidstone, advising us that following full consultation, including a Public Notice process, the governors had decided to change category from Community to Foundation with effect from 1 January 2009. The local Members, Mr Dan Daley and Mr Jeffrey Curwood were informed.

(2) There are now 60 Foundation schools in Kent (13 Primary, 46 Secondary and 1 Special) and 91 Aided schools (78 Primary and 13 Secondary) – a total of 150 and in addition, 8 Academies = 157 (91 Primary, 64 Secondary, 1 Special).

(3) For the sake of simplicity, Aided schools should be considered as having the same status as Foundation/Trust schools.

Consultations

3. Since the last report no new schools have informed us that they have begun consultations

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the report.

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Background Documents:

- School Standards and Framework Act; DFES 1998
- Education and Inspection Act; DFES 2006
- Changing Category to Foundation; DCSF 2007
- School Organisation; Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools in England Regulations; DCSF 2007
- Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status;
SOAB - 17 October 2007/14 November 2007/
10 January 2008/7 February 2008/2 April 2008/
7 May 2008/17 July 2008/ 5 November 2008 / 10 December
2008