

# SOUTH CUMBRIA MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## SOUTH WALNEY JUNIOR SCHOOL PROPOSAL TO JOIN SCMAT

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### RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING 16/2/23



*Below are questions that were submitted as part of the consultation process and responded to by South Walney Junior School Headteacher Zena Lines, SCMAT CEO & Executive Headteacher Andrew Wren and SCMAT school member Ormsgill Primary School Headteacher Mick Cull as part of the public meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.*

#### **Q: What are the biggest achievements that other schools experienced after joining SCMAT?**

*A: Ormsgill Headteacher Mick Cull, in attendance:*

- Sharing excellent practice in teaching and learning across member schools to strengthen pupil's progress and achievement with groups set up to share expertise alongside a focus on specialist areas of modern foreign languages and music;
- Accelerating professional development of teaching and support staff through initiatives led by the SCMAT's Primary Consultant North Star Consultancy;
- Responsive access to educational and support services expertise at a local level;
- Operations Manager able to deal with a wide range of issues – from IT service contracts to HR support – to free up the headteacher to carry out their role;
- Support to celebrate the school's success in the wider community. Director of Communications liaises with media to share news of initiatives including Ormsgill Book Festival, appointment of pupils as Cumbria's first primary Anne Frank Trust Ambassadors, Multiply maths homework club plus ensuring Ormsgill staff representation in Cumbria-wide Golden Apple Awards and Love Barrow Awards. There is also support for external communications with key stakeholders as the need arises;
- Financial efficiencies through joint commissioning of services.

#### **Q: What can pupils and staff expect during the transitioning phase?**

*A: SCMAT CEO and Executive Headteacher Professor Andrew Wren:*

- In the first instance there will be very little change. SCMAT values the individual identity of each of its schools and is passionate about retaining this;
- No requirement for a school to change its name, except that for legal reasons the school will convert to an academy under South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust;
- Local Governing Body in place;
- Any plans to change name, logo or uniform will be led by the school and governors;
- Pupils are unlikely to notice any immediate differences. Over time pupils and staff will benefit from the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning between the partner schools.