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**Consultation Meeting – Academy Status**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Governors have recently met with the Diocese of Durham’s Director and Assistant Director of Education in relation to the Durham Diocesan MAT (DDMAT), which is being offered to schools within the Diocese who wish to take advantage of an Academy model.

As a consequence of this, and the continued debate and growth of academies in England, the Board of Governors decided to look more closely into whether an academy model would be in the best interests of the children, teachers and staff at Stanhope Barrington CE Primary School. Governors would now like to consult more broadly with parents and carers as to the best way forward for the school. Four other schools are already part of the DDMAT and these schools are Egglecliffe C of E Primary School (Stockton), ST Mary’s CE Primary, Long Newton, St Aidan’s CE Memorial Primary School (Hartlepool) and Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Seaton Carew).

We are therefore holding a consultation meeting on the evening of **5 December 2018** where representatives of the Governing Body, Senior Leadership Team and DDMAT will be on hand to discuss academy status with attendees. The meeting will start at 5.30pm and last for approximately one hour. The event will be fairly informal allowing all parents / carers/community members an opportunity to ask questions. We have included some background information with this letter along with a feedback form which we request that you complete and return to us.

We want and value your feedback and would urge you to attend the consultation meeting. As we expect the meeting to be popular, could you return the reply slip below – or email the school office – stating if you are planning to attend so that we can get a feel for numbers. Unfortunately, this meeting is for parents and carers only and not suitable for children.

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Head Teacher

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**Consultation Meeting – Academy Status**

Yes I/we will be attending (please circle)  
No, I/we will not be attending (please circle)

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_