

Statement for Parent and Carers: Application to Form a New Multi-Academy Trust

We wrote to you in October to formally consult on the possibility of establishing a new local Multi-Academy Trust with the schools of the Outer West Learning Trust. We have worked in partnership with these schools as a Foundation Trust for nine years.

The White Paper sets out the government's intention that all schools will be in strong multi-academy trusts by 2030. Some parts of the Schools Bill will not be legislated, however, the government remains committed to the objectives that underpinned the Bill and not all aspects require legislation. Our Governing Body remains in agreement that pupils, staff and the wider community would benefit from the greater opportunities that a formal partnership would bring, which would include:

- increased collaboration as a natural extension of our successful Outer West Learning Foundation Trust
- better support for schools to raise standards
- extended learning opportunities and activities for pupils
- enhanced support for the pastoral and development needs of our pupils
- an enriched curriculum through partnership working and shared resources
- sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning
- enhanced professional development of teaching and support staff
- the ability to attract and retain the best staff
- securing cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services
- being in a strong position to respond to changes in the local and national educational landscapes.

The Governing Bodies of each school in the Outer West Learning Trust have met to discuss the feedback from the consultation. In considering all responses, our Governing Body has agreed to this proposal in principle and, along with seven other schools in the OWL Trust, has passed a resolution to proceed with an application to the Department for Education's Regional Director for schools to convert to academy status.

If the joint application is approved, the schools will move to the next stage of academy conversion where formal due diligence will take place around finances and premises, as well as establishing a Board of Trustees who will work with the schools and Local Governing Boards to set up formal models, structures and a scheme of delegation.

All of our schools are committed to working with parents and carers, and the wider community throughout the next stage of the process. It is important that everyone can ask questions and explore the proposal in more detail with us. A page on each of the school's websites will be dedicated to this ongoing engagement and will have links to all consultation documents and responses to questions. This will include:

- The 3rd October 2022 statutory consultation letter to all stakeholders
- The Consultation Report Summary, November 2022
- Updated FAQs and response to consultation for staff, parents and governors

We will write to you in due course to inform you of the Regional Director's decision regarding our application and will continue to share information throughout the process.