

Parent Consultation

Wednesday 13th November 2019



Why now?

- Education landscape is challenging; locally and nationally
- We no longer have access to significant LA services as in the past
- Access to improved site and resources through academy ring-fenced Condition Improvement Fund
- Collaborative working arrangements to ensure more improvement and to increase the pace of improvement
- Access to curriculum innovation and being able to share what we do well
- Improved staff development opportunities within the Trust
- Our future sustainability as an inclusive secondary school in Preston
- Future financial sustainability
- Being allowed to keep our core values and moral purpose as a school
- Same legalities apply around admissions, SEND and exclusions as currently
- Retaining our moral imperative – to provide high quality education to the children of Preston



Different types of academies

- Schools with a GOOD or OUTSTANDING Ofsted rating have the opportunity to choose to convert to academy status
- Schools with SERIOUS WEAKNESSES are issued with an Academy Order by the Secretary of State so that they may be supported to improve by an Outstanding Multi Academy Trust

Options available

- Do nothing, remain a Local Authority school
- Join a multi academy trust of our choice



Which MATs did we consider?

I have talked to the CEOs of:

- The Bay Learning Trust
- Cidari Trust
- Endeavour Learning Trust

I have also explored local MAT options informally without meeting CEOs of:

- Fylde Coast Academies Trust (FCAT)
- Bright Futures
- STAR



With the governors, I compared:

- ethos and values
- profile of schools and practicality
- retained identity and USP of individual schools
- value for money
- capacity to support our continued development
- opportunities for our staff

At the end of this fact finding, The Bay Learning Trust became the obvious choice.

Members of the senior leadership team and governors, all who see themselves as the moral guardians of the school and all it stands for have discussed this proposal and are in favour of moving it forwards.





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Stronger together... 



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The **Bay Learning Trust** is a group of schools in North Lancashire working together to improve life chances for young people.

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Currently:

- Over half of the pupils in state schools in this country attend academies.
- 70% of secondary schools are now academies.
- In our region (Lancs and West Yorks) there are 926 academies.
- There are over 360,000 pupils in good and outstanding academies and free schools in Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

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The Bay Learning Trust was set up in 2016 by Ripley St Thomas.

We are:

- **An open Trust** – open to both Church and Community schools; the ethos of each individual school is highly valued and must, *by law*, be sustained.
- We already value close links with Ashton Community Science College

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Our aim is to:

Improve outcomes and life chances for young people

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What are the benefits?

- Working together
- Additional support from our School Improvement team
- Schools freed up to focus on Teaching and Learning
- Economies of scale

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Will anything change?

There will be **no** changes to:

- the uniform,
- the school ethos,
- the timing of the school day,
- holiday patterns
- terms and conditions for staff.

The Trust, rather than the Local Authority, will be accountable for the school to the Secretary of State.

How does Governance work?

- A Multi Academy Trust is a non-profit making charitable trust
- The academy trust has a Board of Directors – ultimately accountable for the work of the academies and the trust
- Each academy within the trust has a Local Governing Body
- Each LGB retains parent governors and staff governors
- The LGB sets the academy vision with the Headteacher and draft the academy spending plan
- The LGB has delegated power from the Trust Board in respect of financial delegation, staff recruitment and the school site
- Each academy within the trust will work to a scheme of delegation



Our school funding

- The DfE meets the running costs of academies directly
- Academy funding is calculated on a like-for-like basis to LA schools but funding is direct to the academy
- We already have significant autonomy to commission services and resources, this will not change
- Our budget will be almost identical to that currently (excepting for funding policy changes e.g. national funding formula)
- We will have access to funding for site and resources which is priority driven and only available to academies
- Terms and conditions of service for **all staff**, including pension arrangements, remain the same as now.



What will happen to SEND funding?

- SEND funding comes directly from the government through the Education Funding Agency.
- Funding directly allocated to a named child with an EHCP will continue to be funded through the local authority
- SEND funding was cut significantly to all schools as a central initiative when statements changed to EHCPs several years ago
- We will not be able to access any more funding for SEND as an academy than we do now – but nor will the allocation decrease.
- Our SERF will remain as is, with places commissioned by the Local Authority as now.
- Students who access SEN support who do not have an EHCP will still receive support from school as appropriate.



What is the overall process?

- Register interest with DfE and inform Regional Schools Commission
- Governors open consultation
- Governors meet to discuss consultation responses and make a decision as to whether to proceed
- If yes, Regional Schools Commission approves decision to join The Bay Learning Trust
- Secretary of State issues an academy order
- Transfer of school staff to MAT in accordance with TUPE regulations
- Commercial transfer of land and assets
- A school can withdraw from the process right up until the point where documents are sent to the SoS for signing (around 3 weeks before agreed conversion date)



What are the timescales for us?

- Friday 1st November 2019 Statutory consultation commences
- Monday 4th – Thursday 14th November 2019 Student assemblies
- Monday 4th November 2019 Staff meeting to discuss consultation
- Wednesday 13th November 2019 6.00pm Parent consultation meeting
- Friday 13th December 2019 Consultation closes for responses
- Wednesday 18th December 2019 Extra-ordinary governor meeting to consider responses

