



# Monkton Church of England Primary School

Monkton Street, Monkton,

Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JQ

Telephone: 01843 821394

Email: [office@monkton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@monkton.kent.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mr P McCarthy

Head of School: Mr C Marston

Date: 29.09.25

## Academy Consultation - Letter to parents, families and community

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a meeting and vote by the Full Governing Body, we have decided to open a formal consultation with you to consider the conversion of the school into an Academy as part of the EKC Schools Trust. Academies are state-funded schools which are independent from the local authority (Kent County Council), and instead receive funding directly from the Department for Education.

Why are we thinking of doing this?

As a Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team, we believe that becoming an Academy with this particular Trust, is the best choice for our school, and as key stakeholders, we now want your views to inform our decision-making.

The key reasons for this decision are all related to ensuring the best possible quality of education and outcomes for our pupils. Over the last few years we have seen a significant decrease in support and challenge from visits from our Improvement Adviser, due to less resource in the LA, and as a strong school we welcome a high level of external support and challenge. The Trust we are proposing to join is providing a significant school improvement package that will not cost our school and will include visits, training, moderation and other school improvement activities.

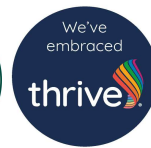
Working with a large number of like-minded schools within the Trust, whilst maintaining our positive collaborations and links more locally, are a real strength for this decision.

As you will be aware, finances are very challenging across the sector and the Trust we have selected is a partnership organisation alongside a very large group of Further Education Colleges. Through this partnership, we will have access to a whole range of services that will positively impact our financial position.

We have also considered the very important, and perhaps most significant aspect; the impact on learning and curriculum. The EKC Schools Trust will provide our teachers and pupils a range of curriculum-enhancing opportunities through visits, events and opportunities for your children.

These key reasons, alongside the autonomy, this Trust will provide, are the shared visions and values that have led us to make this informed decision.

What would the changes be?



As parents and stakeholders in our community, we understand that you'll be interested in finding out the changes and how things might affect you. The key changes are below:

- The school would become its own admissions authority, able to accept and grow provision in line with the needs of the community.
- The Trust would become the employer of all staff, but just as they do now, our Governors and Senior Leaders would be responsible for staffing our school.
- The Trust would take charge of all of the land and assets from the Local Authority, safeguarding the school in the future and ensuring the management of the buildings and assets are fit for purpose for the education of your children.
- The school can continue with its own strategic vision for growth and continue to ensure excellence in teaching, learning and assessment but will have a greater ownership over what is taught and how it is delivered so that the people who know your children best can determine what they learn.

What won't change?

EKC Schools Trust believes that our school should remain locally managed, with no changes to any of the day-to-day activities. That means that while the Trust can enhance what we do, there are a number of things which wouldn't be changed. A few of these are set out below:

- The current structure of the Federation would remain the same and Minster and Monkton would continue to operate as they do currently but without the Federation label (we cannot be called a Federation if we are academised).
- Our Executive Headteacher and the Governing Body would still make local decisions – the school's current Governing Body would be changed to become a local board for the schools, with delegated authority to make management decisions. It would feed into a larger EKC Schools Trust Governing Body, which would give strategic direction to the wider Trust and provide added scrutiny of each school. However, all the decisions about how your school is run, how the curriculum is designed, how behaviour is managed, and the teaching policies and procedures will all remain the responsibility of the Governors and the Executive Headteacher.
- The local brand of the school would remain the same – EKC Schools Trust believes it can enhance service delivery but doesn't want to change anything else. It believes in the local management of the school, and in allowing us the freedom to continue as we do already.
- There won't be any expensive changes to uniform – we know that it's important you aren't affected by this change, so there'll be no costly new uniforms required, and there won't be any other changes that would cost you anything more.
- School holiday dates, term times, school day times and all organisational decisions will be decided by Governors and the Executive Headteacher to meet the needs of our local community.

When can I give my views?

The formal consultation period opens today 29.9.25 and will remain open until 14.11.25. We want to ensure you get every opportunity for you to ask questions, have time to meet and talk with us and to give us your views, which is why we've chosen to consult so extensively. During this time we will be holding meetings with parents, staff and other stakeholders in order to fully explore the proposal to become an Academy.

As a part of the process we would like to invite you to attend a parent/carers information meeting about Academy conversion where you will have the opportunity to express your

views and raise any questions. This will be attended by the EKC Schools Trust CEO Tammy Mitchell. These meetings will be held on:

- 28.10.25 @ 5pm – Venue = Minster School Hall
- 30.10.25 @ 5pm – Venue = Monkton School Hall

Please feel free to join the meeting that suites you best regardless of venue. We will send out a booking process in due course so that we know what numbers to expect at each event.

I will also be available for 1:1 meetings if you would like to discuss the proposal and are unable to attend the dates identified above. Please book via the school office at your school. We would also invite written comments on the proposal to convert to Academy status, and join the EKC Schools Trust. Please email to the school office FAO me and entitle it Academy Conversion Feedback.

Following the consultation period, the Governing Body will consider all of the feedback and views it has received during the consultation, and will then make the final decision on whether to legally complete the process.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Governors Headteacher of school