



Sitwell Nursery & Infant School, Grange Road, Rotherham, S60 3LA **Headteacher:** Kirstey Peart

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15th October 2025

Dear stakeholders,

Consultation on a proposal for Sitwell Nursery & Infant School to convert to Academy status and join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

For some time, the Governing Board of Sitwell Nursery & Infant School have been carefully considering the school's future in a fast-changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape. Governors have spent time researching and undertaking due diligence and now believe that the best plan moving forward is for our school to become an academy and join Central Learning Partnership Trust (CLPT). Our application for academy status has been submitted to the Department of Education and will be reviewed at December's Advisory Board meeting. As part of the process, we would like to engage and discuss our proposals with key stakeholders and the information enclosed within this letter is the beginning of that process. We will be hosting meetings and preparing documents which will help you to understand our proposals, what it means for the school, the staff and children, answer any questions you may have and most importantly, enable you to share your thoughts and ideas.

What is the proposal?

Sitwell Nursery & Infant School has now made the same decision that Sitwell Junior School made in 2014, to become an Academy. Sitwell Juniors have shown how successful academisation can be and so we now feel it is the right time for our school to join Central Learning Partnership Trust – a highly successful and well-respected MAT. CLPT is currently 16 schools, primary, secondary and special schools, serving communities across 3 geographical areas: Rotherham, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire. The Rotherham Hub consists of: Coleridge Primary, East Dene Primary and Eastwood Village Primary. The Trust is underpinned by a moral purpose: to change lives for the better and, consequently, are committed to improving the life chances of the children in their schools. All of which aligns perfectly with our vision at Sitwell Nursery & Infant School.

Sitwell Nursery & Infant School and Sitwell Junior School have a strong, successful relationship. Both our schools were Local Authority run schools prior to Sitwell Junior School making the decision to become an Academy. At that stage both schools worked together to agree partnership arrangements to ensure our children, their families and the community continued to be our priority and get the best provision possible. Much of this was drawn up in a formal shared use agreement which both schools are fully committed to.

With the shared agreement already in place between the two schools, we have confidence that the partnership will continue successfully. Moving forward, the only difference is Sitwell Nursery & Infant School would be part of a MAT and not a maintained school with the LA - in exactly the same way as Sitwell



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Juniors. Both schools will always prioritise our children, their families and the community and so our partnership is vital.

Consultation

Governors are now entering the consultation phase and would like to consult with parents, carers, staff, pupils and the wider community on the proposal for Sitwell Nursery & Infant School to convert to academy status and join CLPT. **The consultation period will run from Thursday 16th October to Thursday 13th November 2025.**

We will also be planning some face to face consultation meetings in the future, which will be an opportunity to ask questions about academy status and how this will affect the school. Representatives from the Governing Board, school leadership and CLPT will be available to talk to you and you will also be able to register your comments, queries and any thoughts on opportunities or concerns. All trade union representatives will also be invited and we hope will be available to answer questions at the same meeting.

We have also prepared some Frequently Asked Questions, which you may find of interest. On the school website we have created an academy consultation area where you will find information as well as an online questionnaire (available from 15th October). Further details will be added as it emerges. In order that we gather as broad and deep a range of opinions as possible, we strongly urge you to participate by providing feedback and/or attending a meeting in person when these are arranged.

You can have your say in the following ways:

- By completing an online feedback survey provided on the school website; a link will be made available on the school website on Thursday 16th October, giving you an opportunity to find out more and read the details we are sharing today
- By asking questions at the meetings
- By emailing: office@sitwellinfantschool.co.uk

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Kirstey Peart

Headteacher