



Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary, Platts Heath
and Ulcombe CE Primary Schols

8th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders,

We are writing to inform you that, after much careful consideration, the Governing Board of The Aspire Federation (Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE, Platts Heath and Ulcombe CE Primary Schools) are seeking to convert to an Academy Trust. We have expressed our interest with the DfE and are planning to set up our own Aspire Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

In seeking to convert to an Academy trust, our priority is to ensure we continue to provide a high-quality education for all our pupils. We believe forming an Academy Trust will allow us the freedom to make effective financial decisions, securing our future and driving improvement across all our Schools thus ensuring we continue to offer all our children the very best possible education.

The Aspire Multi Academy Trust will include the four schools who form the Aspire Federation at present: Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE, Platts Heath and Ulcombe CE. These schools will continue to work closely together as a local hub, under the leadership of an Executive Headteacher initially Emma Hickling although this will change as the Trust develops.

We already have two other Schools planning to join our Trust, Nonington CE Primary and Goodnestone CE Primary. These schools will be the start of a new second Hub, in the Canterbury/ Dover area. An Executive Headteacher will also oversee this Hub.

Emma Hickling will become the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Aspire Multi Academy Trust.

The reason behind the formation of a new Trust is the need we believe to establish one exclusively for the support and development of small rural Primary Schools. Aspire is passionate about the protection of the individual nature of small Schools and believes that the way the Aspire Federation currently works is a strong model which can be grown and replicated. The Trust will maintain an inclusive and Christian vision and will continue to champion the work of small Schools and the progress of the pupils within them. The Schools will remain largely unchanged with no changes to uniform, class structure, School vision or traditions and the Federation will become the Maidstone Hub of The Aspire Multi Academy Trust.

We will retain a single Board of Governors' across our Hub and the primary concern will always remain your children's wellbeing and education, and how this can be best delivered. We are all looking forward to this exciting new venture and fully exploring all the new and diverse opportunities an Academy Trust offers all our children as we move forward.

The principle behind forming our own Trust is largely based on independence, and a desire to make our own decisions regarding our finances and the growth of the organisation thus ensuring the best possible education for all our children.

Further, before proceeding with any conversion, there will be a Formal Consultation in which we invite you to share your views and ask any questions you may have. We will hold open meetings to ensure everyone has ample opportunity to explore and question us becoming a Trust.

There are a number of ways you can take part in this consultation:

The consultation starts on Monday 11 September and finishes on Friday 6th October 2023.

You can write to the Governors via your school office, or email them again via your school office email address.

Please kindly address all correspondence for the attention of Annie Allum, Chair of Governors.

A meeting for parents and stake holders will be held towards the end of the consultation period – details will follow.

We would like to invite you to read through our answers to FAQs about this consultation, attached to this letter.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape our future and bring about positive change in the way we run our Schools, develop our character and values, and continue to drive the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments, queries or questions you may have as your views matter to us. We aim to give everyone the opportunity to fully understand what and why we are looking to become the Aspire Multi Academy Trust.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document..

Kindest regards

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher

Annie Allum
Chair of Governors