

Everyone matters School Trust: Up Holland High School Consultation

As part of our initial consultation with parents online we have generated responses to the questions that were asked most frequently (FAQs). Further face-to-face consultations are scheduled at Up Holland High School on the 9th and 17th of May from 6 pm – 7 pm.

1. How is the trust led and managed i.e. how it is structured, how directors are appointed, and what representation there is within its directorship?

The Trust has been set up as a company by 5 members. There is a board of trustees with representation from Education, Public Services, Business, Law, and Finance to set the strategic direction and serve the best interests of all the schools within the Trust. Operationally on a day-to-day basis, the Trust is run by the CEO and the Director of Finance along with other Senior staff from the schools in the Trust. Each school has a Principal or Headteacher who is accountable to a local governing body that has powers and responsibilities delegated to them through the Trusts Scheme of Delegation

2. How will the existing governing body structure be impacted?

The LGB will have its powers and responsibilities delegated through the Scheme of Delegation. Final accountability for the performance of all the schools in the Trust sits with the Trust Board.

3. What level of accountability does the trust have towards parents as key stakeholders?

The Trust is accountable for the performance of the individual schools within the Trust. The trust is committed to improving the quality of education for all children that the Trust serves. On a day-to-day operational basis, the first port of call regarding issues would be the Headteacher, then the Local Governing Body, and then the Trust dependent on the issue.

4. The white paper outlined a minimum of 10 schools for a MAT, but Everyone Matters Schools Trust is some way short of that. What processes have been followed to determine this was the best course of action for the school over a more established, or larger MAT?

The Trust and the school have worked together for a number of years and have applied to the Regional Director for Academies in Merseyside and Lancashire who has conducted a rigorous and challenging process to assess the sustainability of the Everyone Matters Schools Trust and the trust is in a strong position to grow as a Local Multi Academy trust working with further partners moving forward. The White Paper has also been dropped as policy by the Government and is now seen as an ambition.

- 5. Financially the school will have to pay a fee towards the MAT, what percentage of the school budget is being top-sliced and what services is the MAT providing? How has this been benchmarked against the services provided by the Local Authority to ensure quality for the school and pupils?**

The top slice is based on a range of services including legal, HR, and payroll that the academy trust requires. The top slice ensures schools in the Trust have the best support services to enable them to deliver a high-quality effective education on a sound financial model as shown in the Trust accounts. The trust continues to develop a best value model based on a rigorous assessment of providers and the needs of individual schools.

- 6. If the school has a surplus at the end of the year is this ring fenced to the school or is it pooled into the MAT, and it's use decided by the CEO or trustees?**

The Trust has a significant reserve as shown in the accounts. As a Trust we will focus on improving education for the public benefit and are committed to working in partnership to achieve the best for children. Any surpluses that individual schools have at the end of each financial year will be allocated to agreed projects across the Trust to benefit the schools, children and community.

- 7. How are capital projects going to be funded by the MAT and who will make decisions on capital project requirements?**

Capital projects will be funded by developing reserves and bidding for available funding streams. The capital projects will be a joint decision agreed by the Principals/ Head teachers of the schools the CEO and Director of Finance then supported by LGB and agreed by the board of trustees.

- 8. You have stated the Governing Board will be reconstituted into an LGB. Will the Trust Board be delegating governance functions to the LGB, or will the Trust Board be making decisions for the school?**

LGB's of good schools will have the same delegated powers from the Trust Board across all schools in the Trust. The schools will retain significant levels of autonomy to serve their community with the support and commitment of the Trust Board to provide the best education for the students and community as well as the best opportunities for staff.