



Proposal to become an academy with the Greenshaw Learning Trust

The Governing Body of Crown Wood Primary School is proposing that the school should become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The Governing Body, with the school leaders, has been carefully considering the school's future, and having evaluated its options, has agreed unanimously that it believes that the best way of ensuring that Crown Wood can build on its strengths and continue on its journey of improvement is to become an Academy as part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The Greenshaw Learning Trust works in the community Crown Wood serves, and it understands our pupils' strengths and needs. It runs three secondary schools and three primary schools in South London and Bracknell, including nearby Brakenhale School.

As part of the Greenshaw family of schools Crown Wood will be able to benefit from and contribute to close collaboration within a community of like-minded schools whilst retaining its character.

The Governing Body is developing its proposals, working with the Greenshaw Learning Trust, Department for Education and Bracknell Forest Council, and is consulting stakeholders, including the school's staff and parents. If the process proceeds to plan it is expected that Crown Wood will become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust on 1 April 2017.

The Governing Body welcomes the views of stakeholders on the proposal to become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust, as set out in this leaflet and on the school website.

Why do it?

By making this move now Crown Wood can choose the schools it works with and take greater control over how it is run and how it develops in future.

Schools are increasingly forming more structured groupings to work together and secure the support and services they require. At the same time, the support that local authorities are able to provide to schools has significantly diminished.

The Greenshaw Learning Trust provides an effective structure for schools to share expertise and resources. As part of the Trust, Crown Wood will benefit from stronger school-to-school collaboration as part of a community of schools that work closely together and support each other.

The Trust has the skills, experience and capacity to ensure that Crown Wood receives the support it requires to enable it to continue on its journey of improvement. Crown Wood's links with Brakenhale School, already part of the Trust, would be strengthened, benefiting both schools and the transition to high school for all pupils.

Being part of a community of schools that share a strong moral purpose will protect the provision and ethos at Crown Wood and provide greater opportunities for pupils and staff.

As an academy, Crown Wood will have greater control over how it is run and more choice over how it spends the money allocated to it and which services it obtains from whom. As part of the Trust, the school will be able to secure better value for money and free up resources to use for the school's own priorities.

How would it affect Crown Wood?

As an academy, Crown Wood's character will not change: it will continue to look, feel and be the way it is now.

The school will be run, as it is now, by its leadership team and governing body, but they will have greater control over how the allocated budget is used and more choice over things like the curriculum and the support services the school uses.

Crown Wood will continue to provide high quality education and a broad and balanced curriculum to give local children of all abilities the best start in their lives. It will continue to operate at the heart of the local community, and

collaborate with other local schools, for example to coordinate term dates, and with the local authority over provision for special educational needs and place planning. It will, as now, be subject to Ofsted monitoring and inspections.

There will be no changes to the school's admissions criteria – the same pupils will come to Crown Wood as would come if it were not an academy.

As an academy, Crown Wood will receive the same level of per-pupil funding as it would as a maintained school, but in addition will receive some additional money that is currently retained by the Local Council.

The land and buildings used by the school will continue to be available to it and will transfer to the Trust on a long lease.

The Crown Wood Nursery for 3–4 year olds would continue to operate, run by the school, in the same way that it does now.

How would it affect staff?

The Greenshaw Learning Trust would become the employer of the school's staff, not the local authority. All current staff will transfer to the Trust under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) regulations, retaining current pay and conditions. Teachers will remain in the Teachers' Pension Scheme and support staff will remain in the Local Government Pension Scheme as they are now; the employers' contributions will be maintained by the Trust.

The Trust would offer greater development opportunities to staff and help Crown Wood recruit and retain good staff.

What is an academy?

An academy is a state-funded school that is required to follow the same regulations and serve its community in the same way as other state-funded schools, and is funded on the same basis, directly by the Department for Education. An academy cannot charge fees or make a profit.

An academy is overseen and supported by an academy trust – a charitable company established with the sole purpose of providing state-funded public education through its academy schools. Academy trustees have a legal duty to operate in the interests of the schools in the trust. An academy is not under the control of the local authority, but is still subject to government regulations and Ofsted inspections.

The Greenshaw Learning Trust

The Greenshaw Learning Trust is responsible for Brakenhale School in Bracknell; Greenshaw High School in Sutton, Surrey; Edenham High School in Croydon; and Green Wrythe Primary School, Victor Seymour Infants' School and Tweeddale Primary School in Carshalton, Surrey. The Trust also has approval to open a new secondary school and ASD school in Sutton.

To find out more, go to www.greenshawlearningtrust.org.uk

Information, views and comments

We would like to hear your views and answer your questions about the proposal that Crown Wood Primary School should become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Consultation meetings are being held on Monday 21st November at the school:

For parents and carers *	2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
For all staff of Crown Wood	3.00 pm to 4.00 pm
For parents and carers *	5.30 pm to 6.30 pm

* parents and carers of children at Crown Wood Primary School and nursery.

You can also give your views or ask your questions:

- By completing the online response form at:
www.crownwoodschool.com/page/?title=AcademyConsultation&pid=129
- By email to secretary@office.crownwood.bracknell-forest.sch.uk
- By writing to: Antoinette Butler-Willis, Headteacher, Crown Wood Primary School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE.
- By posting a response form in the 'postbox' in the school reception.

Please let us have your views before 20th January 2017.

There is more information on the school website at
www.crownwoodschool.com/page/?title=AcademyConsultation&pid=129

The proposal will require the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. Representations may be made to the Education Funding Agency, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.
