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# *Proposal to become an academy with the Greenshaw Learning Trust*

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***The Governing Body of Tweeddale Primary School has decided the school should become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.***

The Governing Body has been carefully considering the school's future, and having evaluated its options, agreed unanimously that it believed that it is in the best interests of Tweeddale and its pupils for the school to become an Academy as part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The schools in the Greenshaw Learning Trust have a similar ethos to Tweeddale; the Trust works in the community Tweeddale serves and has an in-depth knowledge of the strengths and needs of the pupils that come to Tweeddale.

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

Joining the Greenshaw Learning Trust will ensure that Tweeddale receives the support it requires to enable it to continue on its journey of improvement.

The Greenshaw Learning Trust is a locally-based academy trust that provides successful and popular education at primary and secondary schools; the Trust has the skills, experience and capacity to support other schools and to help them improve (more details on page 4).

The Governing Body is developing its proposals, working with the Greenshaw Learning Trust, Department for Education and Sutton Council, and is consulting stakeholders, including the school's staff and parents. If the process proceeds to plan it is expected that Tweeddale will become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust on 1 September 2016.

**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.**

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## Why do it?

By making this move now Tweeddale 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 Government says it wants all schools to become academies as part of a group of schools.

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

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

As an academy, Tweeddale 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 Tweeddale?

As an academy, Tweeddale's character will not change: it will continue to look, feel and be the way it is now. The school's name won't change - it won't include the word 'academy'.

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.

Tweeddale 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, as now, be subject to Ofsted monitoring and inspections. 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.

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

As an academy, Tweeddale 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 Authority.

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 Tweeddale 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 becomes the employer of the 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 academy.

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

### ***The Children's Centre***

This proposal does not include the children's centre or day nursery – Sutton Council is considering the future of children's centres in a separate process.

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## **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.

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## **The Greenshaw Learning Trust**

The Greenshaw Learning Trust is responsible for Greenshaw High School in Sutton, Green Wrythe Primary School in Carshalton and Edenham High School in Croydon; Victor Seymour Infants School in Carshalton and The Brakenhale School, in Bracknell, Berkshire, are due to join the Trust on 1 April. The Trust has approval to open a new secondary school and ASD school in Sutton and its capacity to support schools is endorsed by the Department for Education.

To find out more, go to [www.greenshawlearningtrust.org.uk](http://www.greenshawlearningtrust.org.uk)

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# **Information, views and comments**

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

Consultation meetings are being held on Monday 14th March at the school:

For parents and carers \*                    2.30 pm to 3.15 pm

For all staff of Tweeddale                    3.30 pm to 4.30 pm

For parents and carers \*                    6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

\* parents and carers of children at Tweeddale Primary School and nursery and of those hoping to join in September 2016.

You can also give your views or ask your questions:

- By going to [www.tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk/academy-proposal.php](http://www.tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk/academy-proposal.php)
- By email to [consultation@tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk)
- By writing to: Michael Lovett, Headteacher, Tweeddale Primary School, Tweeddale Road, Carshalton, SM5 1SW.
- By posting a response form in the 'postbox' in the school reception.

Please let us have your views before 12th May 2016.

There is more information on the school website at [www.tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk/academy-proposal.php](http://www.tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk/academy-proposal.php)

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*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.*

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