

Proposal that Plympton Academy joins the Greenshaw Learning Trust

The governing body of Plympton Academy is proposing that the school should join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The Governing Body and the school's leadership have been carefully considering the school's future and exploring different partnerships that will support continued school improvement and continue to grow the relationship between the two trusts. It has been agreed by the Governing Body that the academy should take the next steps to become part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust and hold a formal consultation with stakeholders.

Joining the Greenshaw Learning Trust will provide the capacity and experience for Plympton Academy to ensure it continues to provide the education its students and community deserve. As a school within the Greenshaw Learning Trust, Plympton Academy will maintain its ethos and its place at the heart of its local community.

Plympton Academy will benefit from close collaboration within a community of like-minded schools; and will receive the quality support services and savings from economies of scale that come with being part of the multi-academy trust.

If the proposals proceed to plan and the necessary formal arrangements are agreed between the school, the Greenshaw Learning Trust and the Department for Education, the Governing Body hopes that Plympton Academy will join the Greenshaw Learning Trust in January 2021.

About the Greenshaw Learning Trust

The Greenshaw Learning Trust is an established and successful multi-academy trust with primary and secondary schools in South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Berkshire and South London.

The Trust shares Plympton Academy's values; it works in similar communities to those of Plympton and Plymouth and understands its young people's strengths and needs. The Greenshaw Learning Trust provides an effective structure for schools to collaborate and share expertise and resources. It provides quality and cost-effective support services to its schools, and has a track record of school improvement.

The Trust is responsible for ten secondary schools: Greenshaw High School in Sutton, Yate Academy in South Gloucestershire, Henley Bank High School in Gloucester, Holmleigh Park High School in Gloucester, Gloucester Academy in Gloucester, Blaise High School in Bristol and Five Acres High School in the Forest of Dean, The Brakenhale School in Bracknell, Broadwater School in Surrey and Orchard Park High School in Croydon, as well as seven primary schools in Sutton, Bracknell and Yate, all of which have shown significant improvement since they joined the Trust.

The Governing Body welcomes the views of stakeholders, including the schools' staff and parents on the proposal to join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Please read the information in this leaflet or see the school website and let us have your views before 14 October 2020.

To find out more, go to www.plympton.academy

Why do it?

Schools are increasingly forming more structured groupings to work together and secure the support and services they require. A multi-academy trust provides the most effective structure for schools to collaborate and share expertise and resources, and secure the services they need.

Plympton Academy, along with a number of other schools in Plymouth, has informally worked with the Greenshaw Learning Trust for the last two years and

this collaboration has helped deliver school improvements. The Greenshaw Learning Trust has the skills, experience and capacity to continue to work with Plympton Academy to ensure it can continue to provide the best education to all its students and is the local school of choice in which to work and learn.

As part of the Trust, Plympton Academy will benefit from stronger school-to-school collaboration as part of a community of schools that work closely together and support each other. The academy will be able to secure better value for money and free up resources to use for the academy's own priorities. Joining a family of schools that share a strong moral purpose and work closely together to support each other will protect the provision and ethos at Plympton Academy and improve opportunities for students and staff.

How would it affect Plympton Academy?

As part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, Plympton Academy's ethos and place at the heart of its local community will not change; the same students will come to the school.

Plympton will continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to give local students of all abilities the best education possible. The school will continue to serve its 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.

Plympton will receive the same level of per-pupil funding as it would as a single academy, but will benefit from additional efficiencies and economies of scale available to the larger multi-academy trust. The land and buildings used by the school will continue to be available to it and will transfer to the Greenshaw Learning Trust on a long lease.

The Greenshaw Learning Trust will become the employer of the school's staff – all current staff will transfer to the Trust under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) regulations. 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 Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The Trust will offer greater development opportunities to staff and help Plympton recruit and retain good staff.

Information, views and comments

We would like to hear your views and answer your questions about the proposal that Plympton Academy should join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Consultation meetings are being held on 22 September 2020 via Zoom.

- For all school staff 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- For school union representatives 4.30pm to 5.30pm
- For parents and carers 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Meeting login details:

www.zoom.us and click on join a meeting.

Meeting ID: 954 6566 2879

Pass code: 068869

There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the consultation meetings, however questions and feedback can be raised in advance:

- By completing the online response form
- By posting a response form in the 'post box' in the school reception.
- By writing to: The Principal, Plympton Academy, Moorland Road, Plympton, PL7 2RS
- By email to: overtont@plympton.academy

Please let us have your views before 14 October 2020.

There is more information on the school website www.plympton.academy and for more information about the Greenshaw Learning Trust visit www.greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk

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 by writing to the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.