



# The Wyvern Federation

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Henry Fawcett Primary School  
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Vauxhall Primary School  
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Wyvil Primary School  
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Thursday, 16 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: Consultation on a proposal to either remain part of the Local Authority maintained sector or establish a multi-academy trust and convert to academy status**

### *Background*

You may be aware that the Government is encouraging all schools to consider converting to Academy status. The Governing Boards of the Wyvern Federation and Henry Fawcett Primary School have been considering the future plans of its schools in a changing and challenging educational landscape. The schools are currently maintained by the London Borough of Lambeth.

### *Proposal*

We are writing to consult with staff, parents, local schools and community partners to determine whether the schools should proceed with conversion or maintain their current status and we would like to invite your views on the matter. The proposals that are under consideration are:

- 1) For all schools to continue as maintained schools in a Federation under the Local Authority (with Henry Fawcett school in a soft-federation with its own Governing Board).
- 2) For all schools to convert to Academy Status and join an established Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)
- 3) For all schools to convert to Academy Status and establish a new local MAT consisting of the Federation schools.

### *Consultation*

We are now consulting with staff, parents, carers, pupils and the community. The consultation period will run between Thursday 16th September 2021 and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021. The Governing Bodies will then consider a report on the consultation before making a final decision on which proposal to take forward.

### *How can I find out more?*

There is a dedicated page on the schools' websites called "Consultation" under the "Parents" page. That will include answers to frequently asked questions which will be updated regularly. You may email any questions to [consultation@vauxhallprimary.org.uk](mailto:consultation@vauxhallprimary.org.uk). We will also arrange consultation meetings at each school. We have attached a *Consultation Frequently Asked Questions for your information*.

### *How can I make my views known?*

You can give your views and comments using the form attached to this letter or by downloading a form from the "Consultation" page on the website. You can also submit your response via Google Form here <https://forms.gle/HDjwRkMXyxD7Wbnz6> or on the consultation page on the website. Forms can be returned electronically to [consultation@vauxhallprimary.org.uk](mailto:consultation@vauxhallprimary.org.uk) or posted via the schools' offices. Please do so by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**.

Yours sincerely

Juliet Hobday  
Chair of Governors  
Wyvern Federation

Sophie Avent  
Chair of Governors  
Henry Fawcett Primary School



## **Consultation Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is an Academy?**

Academies are charitable companies funded by the Government to provide state education free of charge. Multi academy trusts bring together several academies under a single board of trustees, who are accountable for the academies within the Trust. They are funded at the same level as schools maintained by local authorities; and have the same responsibilities for children with special educational needs, pupils in receipt of pupil premium and for admissions. On conversion, some current governors may become Trustees of the new Trust.

### **Does joining an academy trust mean that everything will change?**

No, the schools are outstanding schools and there is no need for change as a result of a change in school status. There will be no changes to staffing in the schools and all pupils remain on roll. The schools' names, term dates, school times, uniform will not change. We do not expect parents and children to notice any difference in their day to day experience of school.

### **Will support still be available for children with additional needs?**

Yes. Academies are bound by the same requirements as all maintained schools to meet the needs of individual children.

### **Who decides the admissions policy?**

The Trust will become the admission authority for each school although Trustees will decide the policy for the schools. We do not expect to make any changes and admissions are governed by the School Admissions Code of Practice.

### **What changes will there be to staffing, particularly leadership?**

If the schools decide to form a Trust, all staff will be employed by the new MAT. Staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Staff will be provided further information on how they are affected.

There are no proposals to change any staffing in either school as part of the conversion. Trustees and governors will continue to work with staff, ensuring that they feel happy and supported and hope that they will invest in working within the Trust for the long term.

### **Will the schools get more money as an academy?**

Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school. They also receive additional funding in the form of the EducationServices Grant to cover the responsibilities of the MAT, in place of London Borough of Lambeth, and to cover the additional costs of academy status. The whole of the school budget would come direct to the school from central Government allowing the school to control the whole of their spending. As part of a multi-academy trust, the schools may also achieve greater efficiencies through increased buying power and joint commissioning of services; such as school equipment, catering and cleaning.

**What information is there about the other schools in the proposed Trust?**

Name of school	Ashmole Primary School	Henry Fawcett Primary School	Herbert Morrison Primary School	Vauxhall Primary School	Wyvil Primary School
Type of School	Community	Community	Community	Foundation	Foundation
Age Range	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11
Further Provision	Nursery for 3 / 4 year olds	Nursery for 3 / 4 year olds  Children's Centre	Nursery for 3 / 4 year olds	Nursery for 3 / 4 year olds	Nursery for 3 / 4 year olds.  Resource bases for children with Autism and with Speech and Language Needs
Location	Ashmole School Ashmole Street, London SW8 1NT	Henry Fawcett School Bowling Green Street, London, SE11 5BZ	Herbert Morrison School Hartington Road, London SW8 2HP	Vauxhall School Vauxhall Street, Vauxhall, London SE11 5LG	Wyvil School  Wyvil Upper School 1 Trenchold Street London SW8 1GG  Wyvil Lower School Wyvil Road London SW8 2TJ  Wyvil Autism Resource Base 22 Kennington Park Gardens London SE11 4AX
Pupil Numbers and Classes / Year Groups	235 pupils 1 form entry	333 pupils 2 form entry	219 pupils 1 form entry	237 pupils 1 form entry	509 pupils 2 form entry
Headteacher	Ms Cordelia Cooper	Ms Dawn Persad	Ms Lucy Peake	Ms Juanita Gittens	Mr Andy Terrey
Most recent Ofsted	Outstanding (November 2016)	Outstanding (May 2017)	Outstanding (November 2016)	Outstanding (October 2017)	Outstanding (November 2013)

## **Will academies be exempt from the Ofsted inspection process?**

No. Academies are inspected in the same way as maintained schools. Each school will continue to be inspected individually. The performance of all schools will continue to be monitored and the schools may be subject an inspection through the usual process.

## **Will there be any changes to the curriculum?**

Academies are required to have a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. For pupils below Key Stage 1 (i.e. reception and nursery), academies are required to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The curriculum must include:

- English, maths and science;
- Religious Education; and
- Relationships education and health education.

Academies are required to take part in the same pupil assessment arrangements and to report on the achievement and attainment of pupils in the same way as all other state- funded schools.

Inspection

### *Staffing*

The regulations that place requirements on maintained schools do not directly apply to academies. General employment law applies to academies in the same way as to other organisations. Teachers must be suitably qualified. The Academy Trust has responsibility for setting pay and conditions. We will employ all staff on national terms and conditions so there is no change for staff.

All teachers employed at an academy have access to the Teachers Pensions Scheme and all other employees at an academy have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

### *SEND*

Academies should be fully inclusive local schools and in common with all other schools have a clear legal duty to do their best to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

### *Admissions*

Academies are required to provide education for pupils wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the academy is situated. Academies must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than available places. Academies are required to provide education for pupils of different abilities (i.e. they may not select pupils by ability).

## **What is the conversion process?**

The conversion process begins with an application to the Secretary of State for Education for an academy order. This is a permission to convert – and confirms that the Government is happy for us to go ahead. Beyond that there are several key steps to make the change, including:

- Consulting parents and staff
- Establishing the Academy Trust and agreeing a contract with the Secretary of State to run both schools as academies within the Trust as state-maintained schools, free to all pupils and students;
- Consulting staff and their unions on the transfer to a new employer;
- Working with the owners of our sites to ensure that they can be used by the Academy;
- Transferring contracts for goods and services.
- A grant from the DfE will support the costs incurred, including expertise in managing the process so that your child's education is not disrupted.

**Consultation on a proposal to either remain part of the Local Authority maintained sector  
or establish a multi-academy trust and convert to academy status**

Name (optional)	
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Please tick which school your child/ren attends:

About you:

Ashmole Primary School	
Henry Fawcett Primary School	
Herbert Morrison Primary School	
Vauxhall Primary School	
Wyvil Primary School and Resource Bases	
<i>Not Applicable (local community)</i>	

Parent/Carer	
Staff Member	
Local Community Partner	
<i>Other (please state below)</i>	

Comments on the proposal: