



Public consultation
June 2024

**Proposed formation of a
Multi-Academy Trust of
*Perryfields Primary PRU,
The Beacon PRU and The
Forge Secondary Short
Stay School***

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed change. An informal drop-in session has been arranged to explain the proposal and to answer questions:

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| Date | Tuesday 11th June 2024 |
| Time | 10am |
| Venue | Perryfields Primary PRU |

Dear Parents / Carers / Governors / Colleagues

Consultation on proposed formation of a multi academy trust of Perryfields Primary PRU, The Beacon PRU and The Forge Secondary Short Stay School.

This document explains:

- Why we feel it is appropriate to consider the formation of a multi academy trust
- The timescale for the consultation
- Who is being consulted
- What happens at the end of the consultation period

Have your say

It is very important that all those involved have a say. A copy of the response form can be requested from the school office.

Responses must be submitted to:

*Perryfields Primary PRU
Glebe Close
St Johns
Worcester
WR2 5AX*

Or e-mail to: office@perryfields.worcs.sch.uk

Responses must be received by noon on Monday 1st July 2024

Yours sincerely,

*Pete Hines OBE
Headteacher*

Background information

When schools are looking to form a multi-academy trust they have a statutory requirement under the Academies Act 2010, '*to consult such persons as deemed appropriate*'. This document lays out the proposal which is being consulted on and we feel it is very important that all those involved have a say.

If a pupil has been permanently excluded from their school the Local Authority has a duty to provide suitable full-time education from day 6. This is most likely to take place at a pupil referral unit or other alternative provision. Perryfields not only operates as a six-day provision for permanently excluded pupils but uses a model exemplified by the Department for Education which effectively supports pupils in mainstream schools thus keeping numbers of permanent exclusions in South Worcestershire both recently and historically very low.

The Proposal

What is being proposed?

We propose to create a strong and sustainable multi-academy trust to support many of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children across Worcestershire and the wider region. We aspire to be a model of best practice nationally in the AP and PRU sector.

When would this happen?

Subject to the outcome of the consultation and approval from the Department for Education, we would hope to be a MAT by 1st January 2025.

Impact of the proposal

The creation of this trust will:

- Enable us to work with likeminded leaders and colleagues to support pupils who have been, or are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education. Furthermore, we will continue to develop methods of early identification and prevention to ensure that levels of permanent exclusion are as low as possible. Pupils needs will be at the heart of every decision made and everything we do.
- Enable us to work together, sharing expertise, resources and best practice in order to raise standards and develop innovative teaching and learning for all pupils.
- Provide more and better opportunities both within and beyond the classroom for all pupils.
- Enable us to build greater capacity to support each other and other PRU's and alternative provisions both locally and nationally. There will be a sharp focus on preventative work that has already been seen as a model of best practice nationally and used as a case study by the Department for Education.
- Allow us to have economies of scale when it comes to purchasing goods and services making it possible to maximise funding.
- Enable us to better support and develop our staff giving them wider opportunities to experience a range of teaching and learning pedagogies aiding with staff retention and future recruitment across the trust.
- Allow us to provide centralised services on a larger scale such as providing higher quality professional development helping with the retention of all school staff.

The creation of this trust will not:

- Alter the commissioning arrangements Perryfields currently has with Worcestershire Local Authority.
- Reduce the support that Perryfields already provides to 113 Primary, First and Middle schools in South Worcestershire.
- Dilute the quality of provision Perryfields already provides to the most vulnerable and disadvantages pupils in South Worcestershire.

Evidence of Demand

There has long been a drive for schools to academise. Joining together to form strong and sustainable trusts. The majority of secondary schools and nearly half of all primary schools are academies. The unique nature of the PRU and Alternative Provision sector often means that many provisions are isolated and not sufficiently supported. The work that Perryfields has done both locally through Worcestershire local authority and nationally as part of being a lead school on the Behaviour Hubs Programme and with the Department for Education has meant we have shared our

practice widely. This support is highly valued and very much in demand. Furthermore, and especially following the Covid pandemic there is a much greater focus and need to support pupils social, emotional and mental health needs.

How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Management Committee will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to make a formal proposal to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- The response to the consultation
- The quality of education provision at the school
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school
- The need for PRU / Alternative Provision places in Worcestershire and the support schools require.

Who is being consulted?

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending Perryfields PRU
- Heads and Governors of other local schools
- Local District and County Councillors
- The Local Education Authority
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education

What happens next?

Consultation Phase –

Consultation opens: 3rd June 2024

Consultation Closes: 1st July 2024

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. This document and the meeting detailed on the cover form part of the consultation.

The Management Committee will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period, a decision will be made whether to submit a formal proposal to Worcestershire Local Authority, requesting their support to formally propose the change.

If a formal proposal is made, the school and local authority officers will then prepare a report for the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Education detailing the arguments for and against. The responses of the public consultation will be shared with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility along with the Governors' comments on the issues raised.

If the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education decides to support the proposal the County Council will publish the statutory proposal and Public Notice of the proposal. You will then have a final opportunity to comment or object within a four-week timescale laid down in law. Notices are published in the local press and displayed outside the school. At the end of the four weeks any objections will be reported to the Lead Councillor for Children's Services for a final decision.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by noon on 1st July 2024 by completing the online response form available on the school website perryfieldsprimarypru.com and WCC website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.