



Proposal for Marple Hall School and Romiley Primary School to convert to Academy Status and to form a Multi Academy Trust

Consultation

9th January to 30th January 2023

Marple Hall School

Headteacher: Mr Joe Barker

Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Cavanagh

Romiley Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Adrian Bassett

Chair of Governors: Mrs Sally King



The proposal to convert to Academy Status and to form a Multi Academy Trust

The Governing Body at both Marple Hall School and Romiley Primary School are seeking views on the proposal for both schools to form a Multi Academy Trust, named as the 'Helix Academy Trust'. The Department for Education is clear in the intention that all schools will be part of Multi Academy Trusts by 2030, and so we believe that the time is right to create our own MAT with the stated intention of improving the educational experience for children in both our schools, and also in other schools who may later join the trust.

Why convert, and why form a 'Multi Academy Trust'?

The Governors and Senior leadership team of both schools believe that converting to academy status will:

- 1) **Enable school leaders (Governors and Senior staff) to remain in control of the school's destiny.** In a time of great change to the education sector we will stay autonomous and in the best position to safeguard the needs of our local community.
- 2) **Grant the school the ability to create a curriculum that directly meets the needs of our learners.** Whilst the schools will be subject to the same measures as all schools in terms of student outcomes, and no major changes are planned, having academy status gives a school more freedom in the shape and content of the curriculum. Our focus is and always will be the happiness and success of our learners.
- 3) **Give the school greater freedom in securing best value for money by being able to make better use of the school's full funding entitlement.** At present some of the funding allocated to the school is retained by the Local Authority. Academy status also grants access to wider sources of income to support building projects.
- 4) **Enable effective collaboration between the strong schools across the local area.** For students, a formal collaboration between primary and secondary schools will improve transition from Year 6 to Year 7.
- 5) **Open up fantastic opportunities for staff to learn from each other,** and to allow all partners to benefit from economies of scale and shared expertise in areas such as finance, IT, SEN support, site maintenance etc

Helix Academies Trust

Vision Statement: Nurturing learners to have the ability to influence, challenge and lead the culture of the communities in which they live.

Values: We believe in celebrating the uniqueness of our schools and the communities that they serve. Each school will be empowered to promote their own set of values, all of which will support the vision of the MAT and the values of the other member schools.

Trust Core Purpose: Helix Academies Trust schools aspire to develop all learners to their full potential. Schools ensure that their learners are happy, healthy and fully equipped to influence and lead the communities in which they live. Leaders work collaboratively to enrich the educational offer provided in each member school.

Measurable Outcomes: We are ambitious for the leaders of the future. Every school in the trust creates outcomes for learners that place them in the top 20% of schools within two years of joining the trust (assessed against most appropriate national benchmarks at the time).

Who we are and what we stand for : We believe that schools should be good for the communities that they serve. The Helix Academies Trust is a cluster of schools with the common aim of providing an exceptional level of education for learners in and beyond the Marple area, all within 10 miles of postcode SK6. Schools who join the MAT will be within a 30 minute journey, crucial for facilitating strong collaboration. There is no barrier to schools joining from neighbouring local authorities. All schools will be genuinely comprehensive and committed to collaborative practice, positive consistency, serving the needs of the local community and respecting each school's uniqueness.

The Consultation Process

The consultation period will last for three weeks, from Monday 9th January to Monday 30th January

Who is involved in the consultation?

We aim to consult as widely as possible and hope to gain the views of parents, staff and students at Marple Hall School, Romiley Primary School, people connected with other schools and members of the local community.

Consultation Meeting

There will be a joint, question and answer open meeting held at Romiley Primary School on Wednesday 18th January between 5pm and 7pm. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Staff consultation meeting

Both schools will hold drop-in staff meetings in the week commencing 16th January where colleagues can ask questions.

What happens at the end of the consultation period?

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by the Governing bodies of both schools separately. If the Governing Bodies decide that a formal proposal to convert to academy status should be made then the process will continue with the Department for Education and the Regional Director.

Requests for Information and Frequently Asked Questions

The Governing Body is keen to enable all stakeholders to make a well informed contribution to the consultation, but anticipates that it will be impossible to respond to every individual query. Specific requests for additional information can be emailed to consultation@helixtrust.org.uk

Initial common questions

Q1. Will the schools have a sponsor, and will there be a change of name?

A: No. We will not be sponsored by any outside agency and all schools in the trust will keep their own identity. We won't be changing the uniform or the name of the schools. One of the main reasons for converting is to retain all that is good about the schools, not to make change just for the sake of it.

Q2. Isn't it only struggling schools that convert to academy status?

A: No, that was the case when the Academies project first started over 15 years ago, but since 2010 all schools have been able to convert including many of the very best schools in the country.

Q3. In what ways do the leaders of MHS and RPS think they can help other schools?

A: Many local schools are very strong and, in fact, we hope that we can learn as much from them as we hope they can learn from us. We intend to build a MAT where all the schools lead each other for the common good.

Q4. Will the school cease to have any links with the Local Authority or other secondary schools in Stockport?

A: We certainly hope not. There are already many secondary academies in Stockport and one primary academy in our local area, and all of these schools have remained very significant voices in the cross-school work that happens on a daily basis in Stockport. We know the value of school collaboration and fully intend to continue to play our part.



Consultation Response Form

Proposal to convert to Academy Status and to form a Multi Academy Trust

Please return to the following address by midday on Monday 30th January 2022

Academy Consultation
Marple Hall School
Hill Top Drive
Marple
Stockport
SK6 6LB

Email: consultation@helixtrust.org.uk

Name of person responding:

Interest (tick all that apply)

Current RPS/MHS student
Ex student
Parent of a current student
Staff Member - local school

Parent of a future student
Community responder
Parent of a primary age child
Staff Member at RPS/MHS

Other

Please specify:

Please comment on the proposal in the space below. Please attach additional sheets if necessary

