



Holly Primary School

Holly Drive, Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 0NT
t: 01623 477280 f: 01623 653101 e: office65@holly.notts.sch.uk
www.holly.notts.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Mr. Duncan White
Head of School: Miss. Sophie McGuiness

Wednesday 7th May 2025

Holly Primary School Multi-academy Trust Consultation Wednesday 7th May – 11th June

Proposal

The Governing Body is proposing that Holly Primary School becomes an academy and joins the Nova Trust.

Consultation

We are now initiating the consultation process with key stakeholders, parents and/or carers and staff. The community are also invited to submit comments and questions. The responses to this consultation will be used to determine the final decision on whether to proceed with the proposal to join Nova Trust.

As a Governing Body we are seeking the views of the groups and organisations below.

- Pupils, parents and carers
- Staff and their union representatives
- The Local Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council)
- Local schools
- The local community
- Other interested parties

We hope this consultation document and the information found via our respective websites will help you to formulate your own views on this important proposal.

To allow parents and carers and our local community to meet with Nova Trust representatives we have arranged two meetings on **Monday 19th May 3.40pm & 6pm**

Members of our leadership team and our Governing body will also be attendance.

Governors would welcome any comments on the proposals and are more than happy to consider any questions or concerns that you may have. To register for the event or to make any questions and comments regarding the consultation please complete the short form via this link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Kny7msAJqkVVHF7U09Z9Fyz9Kr-sLStBm_GQD992oxtUNI1SS1ZRSIpVNzFaOTJSWEtDRjA1SzFYNi4u

Consultation documents will also be available on our website: www.holly.notts.sch.uk





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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a multi-academy trust?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a charitable trust which is responsible for the operation of more than one academy.

The people in charge of running the Multi-Academy Trust are the company directors, who are responsible for strategic oversight and management. They are also charity trustees and must comply with duties under company law, charity law and education law to promote the success of the academy trust. They determine the policies of the trust, monitor the effectiveness of each academy within the MAT, manage central services where appropriate and report to the Secretary of State.

They work to ensure that each academy is performing to the best of its ability and gets the support it requires.

The role of the Members of the MAT is largely limited to appointing and removing directors and making key decisions such as amendments to the Articles of Association and changing the name of the academy trust. Each of the academies in the trust usually has its own local governing body which has authority delegated to it by the Trust Board.

2. What was our selection process in choosing a MAT?

Governors have undertaken a range of activities over the last 6 months. This includes:

- Undertaking background research so that governors could understand the benefits of academisation, what we would want from a MAT and the characteristics of the school that we would not want to lose.
- Carrying out 'desktop' due diligence activities on each of the chosen MATs based on publicly available information (e.g. websites, performance tables and other Department for Education information, Ofsted reports, financial statements).
- Attending presentations from each MAT and asking a range of questions afterward.
- Shortlisting MATs on the basis of the information gleaned so far. We met with the following MAT's as part of our shortlisting process
 - Archway Learning Trust
 - Aspire Multi-Academy Trust
 - The Redhill Academy
 - Minster Trust for Education
 - Flying High Academy
 - Nova Academy
 - TEAM
- Visiting schools that are members of each of the shortlisted MATs to see the schools in action, speaking





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to headteachers, to school staff, to trust staff and to governors.

- Utilising all the evidence gathered to identify a preferred MAT

The Governing Body has deliberately taken time to carry out this process. This was to ensure it was a thorough process and resulted in the right decision.

3. Who are the Nova Trust?

Please follow the link below to find out more about the Nova Trust: [Home | Nova Education Trust](#)

4. Why the Nova Trust?

The Governing Body is keen to belong to a MAT with a clear strategic direction and vision and values similar to our school. It is important that there are opportunities for development at all levels to secure even higher achievements, while still retaining a strong self-identity and autonomy in key areas. The Governors believe on balance that Holly Primary needs would be best served by joining the Nova Trust because of:

- the structured support that will add to and improve what Holly Primary currently has achieved.
- the continuous professional development (CPD) and diverse range of schools, which will enable us to improve in more areas.
- the opportunity to contribute to growing the primary arm.
- the opportunity to contribute to the development of other Trust schools, as a high achieving, outward facing school.
- being listened to – leading to the bespoke nature of support at all levels.
- the capacity of the Central Team in all areas (safeguarding, school improvement, HR, Finance, IT)
- many of our children join the Garibaldi school when they leave Year 6. For parents this would allow our community to have the same holiday patterns as well as allowing both schools the opportunity to work more closely together on joint activities. This also includes working closely with the other Nova Trust schools.
- the support and challenge for the local governing body.

5. Whose decision is it whether or not to join a MAT?

The decision to join a MAT and which MAT to join rests with the Governing Body, with approval also being needed from the Regional Director, who acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

6. Has the decision already been made to join a MAT?

No. The Governing Body is currently seeking views from all stakeholders and these views will be considered before any final decision is made.

7. Who will the Governing Body be consulting?

The Governing Body will be consulting with all staff at the school, parents and various other stakeholders, other local schools and other community members.





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8. How can I share my views?

You can share your views through the following means:

- Online Form: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Kny7msAJqkWVHF7U09Z9Fyz9Kr-sLStBm_GQD992oxtUNIISS1ZRSIpVNzFaOTJSWEtDRjA1SzFYNi4u

9. The question I want to ask is not in the FAQ document. How can I ask my question and get an answer?

Questions can be submitted through the online form or by letter as described above. Questions can also be asked at the in-person events for staff and parents.

10. What changes will parent/carers see?

There will be very little visible change as a direct result of joining Nova Trust, with the school continuing in much the same way as it does now on a day-to-day basis. There will be no changes to our school's name, uniform, curriculum or school values. Over time, the opportunities that being part of a MAT brings will enhance the opportunities for children.

We would welcome your views, whether positive or negative, on the proposal. The consultation period will run from Wednesday 7th May – 11th June.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 19th May, when we will give you much greater details and answer your questions. In the meantime, if you have any urgent questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly.

Best wishes,

Mr D White
Executive Headteacher

