



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

**Parent consultation document
In respect of Converting to a Mixed Multi Academy Trust**

From 4th January 2016

To 29th January 2016

Benfield School
Central Walker Church of England Primary School
Tyneview Primary School
Walkergate Community School
West Walker Primary School

Walkergate Community School



Tyneview Primary School



Benfield School



Central Walker CE Primary School



West Walker Primary School

We have worked successfully as Riverside Learning Trust since 2014, although we have worked informally as a group of schools for a number of years. During that time we have achieved a number of things including:

- All schools being rated GOOD in their most recent OFSTED.
- Standards across all schools improving
- Attendance across all schools improving
- Welfare support developed across the Trust to support our most vulnerable families
- Alternative provision being developed in the form of Spaces, to enable us to support our most vulnerable children

To formalise the partnership further, we are proposing to set up a **Mixed Multi Academy Trust**. This will enable us to strengthen our partnerships and continue making a difference to the families in the East End of Newcastle.

Due to significant changes in the funding to Local Authorities, there have been a number of cuts to services and there is a real need for schools to work even more closely together. Furthermore, the current Government has made a pledge that by 2020, all schools will be academies. We feel the time is now right to take more control of the future direction of our group of schools.

What will this mean?

- All schools will have their own Local Governing Body
- Every school will keep their own individual identity
- A group of members will be formed. They will meet annually and they will ensure the group of schools is working effectively and improving outcomes for the community.
- A board of directors will be appointed, based on the skills they can share with the schools. The board will help ensure the schools continue to improve.

As one of the schools is a Voluntary Aided school, we are proposing a Mixed MAT. This will mean that three of the five Member signatories will have links to the Church and the company documents will be based on model documents agreed nationally between the Department for Education and the Church of England. However, the Members delegate responsibility to the board of directors who are responsible for the strategic running of the MAT. The directors will be appointed by the Members based on the skills and expertise they have. Each of the schools and the proposed Members are fully committed to each school keeping its' own unique identity and character and the model articles and the law contain specific protections to further ensure this.

Individual Local Governing Committees and Head Teachers will remain responsible for the day to day running of their own school. Staff appointments will still be made by individual schools, employment terms and conditions will remain unchanged and schools will retain links with the Local

Authority. Furthermore, every school will keep their own uniform and the aspects that make each school special.

What will be different?

Schools will be funded directly from the Department for Education.

Schools can be more flexible around the curriculum and we can tailor this far more to meet the needs of our learners.

We will have a forum to develop even stronger links with businesses and other providers within our community.

There will be even more accountability for good outcomes which we feel will only help ensure we continue to go from strength to strength.

What happens next?

The consultation will run from 4th January 2016 to 29th January 2016. All views are very welcome and can be shared using the attached 'consultation response form' found at the end of this document or from any of the schools websites (details below).

We will also be holding series of public meetings the dates will be advertised in each schools newsletters/websites.

What do we want to achieve?

Our Aims, Vision and Mission

Our Aims

- To develop well rounded young people
- To be academically secure and consistently meet or exceed National expectations
- To have a voice and be a driving force within the local community, Local Authority and Nationally
- To engage with a wide range of partners in an open and transparent way to help make a difference for the families in our community
- To build capacity, ensuring the resources exist to achieve our outcomes
- To work effectively together ensuring financial security

Our Vision

Our young people and their families will be healthy, happy, achieve well and be given the opportunities to make the most of their talents and fulfil their potential.

Our Mission

To make a real difference to the outcomes for our families through real partnerships and engagement.

Who is involved in the consultation?

Students on roll at Benfield School, Central Walker Church of England Primary School, Tyneview Primary School, Walkergate Community School and West Walker Primary School.

Parents and carers on roll at Benfield School, Central Walker Church of England Primary School, Tyneview Primary School, Walkergate Community School and West Walker Primary School.

Staff from Benfield School, Central Walker Church of England Primary School, Tyneview Primary School, Walkergate Community School and West Walker Primary School.

Governors at Benfield School, Central Walker Church of England Primary School, Tyneview Primary School, Walkergate Community School and West Walker Primary School.

Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all schools within Newcastle upon Tyne

Principals and Chairs of Governors of Local Further Education Providers and Sixth form Colleges

Work based learning providers

Trade Unions

Local MPs

Local community groups

Local residents

Newcastle Local Authority

Newcastle Diocesan Education Board

Any other interested parties

What happens after the consultation period?

All of the responses will be reported to and considered by all Governing Bodies during the week beginning 1st February 2016. If the Governing Bodies decide that a formal proposal to become a Mixed Multi Academy Trust should be made, then our proposal will be considered by the Regional School Commissioner before a final decision is made.

Sharing Information

We are very keen to hear your views and urge you to respond to the consultation.

Governing Bodies may not be able to respond to every individual query but we will ensure that all questions are answered.

You may respond via email to admin@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk marking email for the attention of Project Manager

Or to the following schools

School Details	Additional Information
Benfield School Benfield Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 4NU	e: admin@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.benfield.newcastle.sch.uk <i>Head Teacher: Mr Neil Walker</i> <i>Chair of Governors: Mrs E Bohill</i>
Central Walker Church of England Primary School Lancefield Avenue Walker Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2NP	e. admin@centralwalkerce.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.centralwalkerce.newcastle.sch.uk Head Teacher: Mrs Barbara Redhead Chair of Governors: Mrs C Leith
Tyneview Primary School Off Titan Road Walker Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 3QP	e. admin@tyneview.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.tyneview.newcastle.sch.uk <i>Head Teacher: Mr Steve Gittins</i> <i>Chair of Governors: Mr A Mirza</i>
Walkergate Community School Sutton Street Walker Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 4SD	e. admin@walkergate.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.walkergate.newcastle.sch.uk <i>Head Teacher: Mrs D Bailey</i> <i>Chair of Governors: Mrs K Heslop</i>
West Walker Primary School Church Street Walker Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 3XW	e: admin@westwalker.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.westwalker.newcastle.sch.uk <i>Head Teacher: Mrs Nichola Draper</i> <i>Chair of Governors: Mrs A Charlton</i>

*“Alone we can do so little;
 Together we can do so much.”*

Helen Keller

Consultation Response Form	
<p>Proposal to establish a Mixed Multi Academy Trust</p> <p>Newcastle East Academy Trust</p> <p>Please return to one of the addresses above by 4.00pm on Friday 29th January 2015 or alternatively return via post to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FAO Project Manager Newcastle East Academy Trust Proposal Benfield School Benfield Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 4NU</p>	
Name of Person responding:	
Interest (tick all that applies)	Current Pupil Community Responder Parent/Carer Staff Member Other: Please state _____
Please comment on the proposal to establish a Mixed Multi Academy Trust in the space below:	

Thank you for your response.