



Department
for Education

Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner for
North West London and South Central
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Dear Holland Park School parents,

Academy Transfer of Holland Park School to United Learning

Following detailed consideration, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for North West London and South Central, Dame Kate Dethridge, has decided that Holland Park School (HPS) should be transferred to another trust.

United Learning (UL) has been identified as the preferred trust to manage the school going forward due to its strong track record of school improvement and working with schools in challenging circumstances.

In coming to this decision on the preferred trust which is being recommended to the AB for discussion, the RSC considered a shortlist of three trusts, two MATs and one local SAT.

All three trusts were invited to submit a trust information gathering template. You can see a blank version of the template here: [Regional Schools Commissioners' Approach to Sponsor Matching \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) which was considered by the RSC. Following that, all three trusts met with the RSC to talk through their proposal in more detail.

The RSC considered which trust is best placed to provide the significant capacity that is needed to stabilise the school in the short term as well as their previous experience of turning around schools from an Ofsted 'Inadequate' rating to 'Good' or better.

She believes that the best way for HPS to achieve rapid and sustainable improvement is to join a multi-academy trust and that UL were the most appropriate choice of sponsor. Some of the reasons for that view are:

- a. its strong and significant track record in improving schools
- b. its readiness to begin the work needed to stabilise the school
- c. the strength of the local cluster that HPS would join with Paddington Academy and Hurlingham Academy
- d. the additional teaching capacity that cluster would offer through the teaching school hub at Paddington Academy
- e. UL's experience of working successfully with schools with different character and history

The next stage of the process is for the RSC's Advisory Board (AB) to discuss the

transfer of Holland Park School to United Learning ahead of advice being sent to the responsible Schools Minister, Baroness Barran, who will make the final decision. The AB's role is to provide independent advice and challenge on key decisions on academies, including transfers between trusts.

Parents and the wider school community have the opportunity to express views on the preferred sponsor in advance of the Advisory Board meeting on the 21 July, and such views will be shared at that meeting.

There is an opportunity for you to get involved in two ways:

- a) UL will be holding a meeting with the school community where you will have the opportunity to hear more about UL, the transfer process, and the trust's plans to improve HPS as well as ask questions.
- b) You can also respond to the following questions via email :
 - i. What is your relationship to the school?
 - ii. The current proposal is for Holland Park School to be transferred to United Learning. What are your views on that proposal?
 - iii. Are there any further comments/suggestions you would like to make regarding the school's future?

Please email your responses to rsc.scnwlon@education.gov.uk. The deadline for responses is 15th July 2022.

We will not provide individual responses to representations received but a summary of representations will be provided to AB members ahead of the AB meeting. Following the AB's consideration, a summary of the discussion and decision will be published in the AB minutes at the following link: [North-west London and south-central England advisory board - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) The final decision on the future of HPS will then be made by Baroness Barran.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Schools Commissioner, North West London and South Central