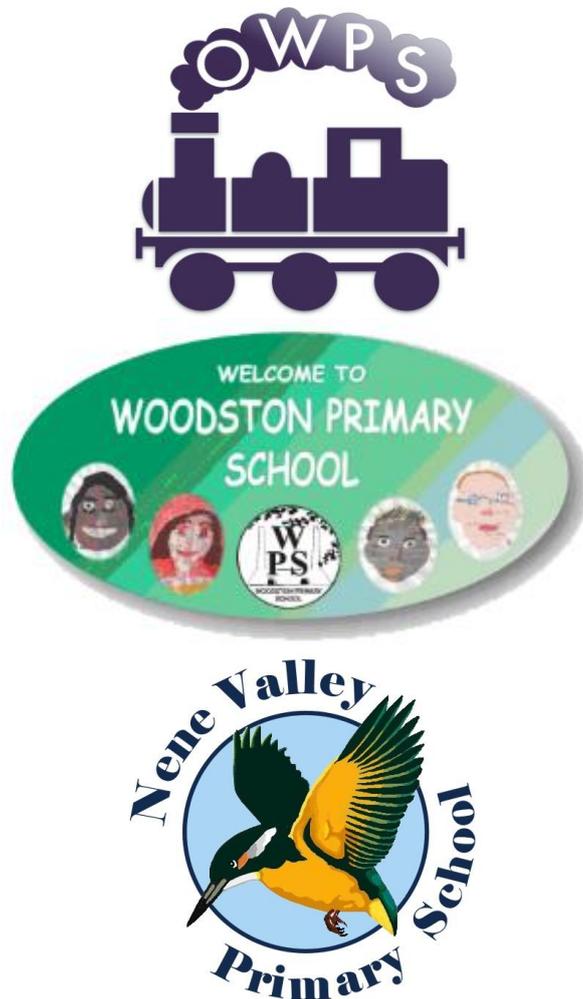


OWN Trust

A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
February 2018**



OWN Trust

The Proposal

The Governing Bodies of the three primary schools listed below, have been investigating the benefits of forming a Multi-Academy Trust together, given current Government policy on education and the running of schools:

- Orton Wistow Primary School
- Woodston Primary School
- Nene Valley Primary School

Each school is already successful in its own right, playing an important role within the communities they serve, with a distinctive ethos and individual approach. However, in an increasingly challenging educational landscape the Governing Bodies recognise that a fresh approach is needed to maintain and improve school performance.

The proposed OWN Trust would be a new partnership that would strengthen and sustain the quality of education each school is able to offer their children and young people through greater collaboration and joint working between member schools.

The proposed multi academy trust would be established in August 2018 by the three schools, which would all convert to academy status.

The Benefits

The OWN Trust would provide a range of important benefits for its member schools through greater collaboration and joint working between Headteachers, senior leaders, staff and governors, including;

- Protect and develop each school's unique ethos, values and culture,
- Share and develop excellent practice in teaching and learning,
- Broaden and deepen the curriculum offered by each school,
- Enhance the professional development of teaching and support staff,
- Increase the range of learning and enrichment activities for students and pupils,
- Enhance the provision for students with additional needs,
- Help retain and attract the most capable staff,
- Increase mutual accountability, challenge and support for Governors and Headteachers,
- Secure financial efficiencies through coordinated resource planning and joint commissioning of services, and
- Respond to changes in Government policy proactively and efficiently.

Key information about the member schools

	Nene Valley Primary School	Orton Wistow Primary School	Woodston Primary School
<i>Age Range</i>	4-11 years	4-11 years	4-11 years
<i>No. of students</i>	315	396	420
<i>Headteacher</i>	Mr Stuart Mansell	Mr Simon Eardley	Mrs Jacki Mitchell
<i>Most recent Ofsted report</i>	Dec 2016 Good	Oct 2016 Good	May 2017 Good

Trust Vision and Values

The Trust's principles are based upon a core moral leadership which places our learners at the centre of everything that we do. We will achieve excellence through providing **O**pportunity for all, **W**orking together and **N**urturing a lifelong love of learning.

We share a Common Purpose:

- We will take **OWN**ership of each school's future
- Making positive choices for our **OWN** school communities
- **OWN**ing the choices we make for the continued success of the Trust and the schools within

Fundamental to our work, is a belief that by collaboration with a common purpose, each school will be enhanced from sharing experiences and resources. By combining the unique character of each school, we will work innovatively, share best practice and be accountable for positive outcomes for all learners. This aspiration to achieve excellence will underpin all that we do.

OWN Trust

Opportunity, **W**ork together, **N**urture

Trust governance, leadership and management

The Trust would be governed by a single board of trustees including existing governors from the founding schools. The trustees would have the range of important knowledge, skills and expertise needed to oversee an organisation of 1,000+ students, 180 staff and nearly £5.1m of public funding.

Each school would continue to have a Local Governing Body, with representation for parents, staff and the wider school community as now. Governors and Headteachers would continue to decide how their school is run with the vast majority of decisions still made locally.

The trust would have overall accountability to the Department for Education (DfE) but each school would be subject to individual Ofsted inspection.

Each Headteacher would continue to be responsible for running their school but would form a leadership group responsible for developing and implementing trust plans for school-to-school

support and collaboration. Initially, one of the Headteachers would be appointed as CEO (a DfE requirement) with specific responsibility for overseeing the trust's legal, financial, governance and HR functions. Unlike some trusts the CEO would not be an executive Headteacher.

The funding would still be calculated and allocated on a school-by-school basis. The schools would contribute to the central costs of running the trust, which would be kept as low as feasible. The Trust's finances would be subject to close scrutiny by the DfE's Education Funding Agency and independently audited accounts would be published. The Trust would be the employer of staff in all schools.

School management and operation

In each school, students would continue to be taught by the same teachers in the same classrooms, wearing the same uniform. Over time students would notice changes in the way they learn and be able to access a wider range of opportunities, as the schools develop trust-wide initiatives to enhance teaching, learning and the curriculum.

The names and identities of the school would remain the same and schools would retain control over the admissions policies and processes, which must be compliant with the national admissions code.

All staff would continue to work in their current schools with the same responsibilities and terms and conditions as now. There would be opportunities for some staff to take on wider responsibilities across schools to enable the trust to function effectively and efficiently. Staff would also have access to enhanced professional development. There are no plans to make any posts redundant as a result of the Trust being established.

Next steps

The aim is for the OWN Trust to be established on August 1st 2018.

The first step is for each of the three founding schools to consult with their school communities on the proposal. This coordinated consultation will run from Monday, February 19th until Friday, March 16th and will include meetings when parents, carers and staff will be able to hear more about the proposal and ask questions.

Meeting Venue	Audience	Time & Date
The Fleet	All Staff	4 pm Tuesday, February 27 th
Woodston Primary	Parents & carers	2pm & 6pm Monday, February 26 th
Nene Valley Primary	Parents & carers	2pm & 6pm Tuesday, February 27 th
Orton Wistow Primary	Parents & carers	2pm & 6pm Wednesday, February 28 th

In March, the Governing Bodies of the three schools will then consider a report on the consultation and decide whether to proceed with the proposal. Then, subject to completion of legal tasks such as completing the agreements with the Secretary of State, the Trust would be established and the schools would convert on August 1st 2018. The transition would be carefully managed to ensure day-to-day running of the schools is not affected.

Parents, carers, staff, students and the wider community of each school will be kept fully informed.