Walter Halls Primary and Early Years School
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Important update for parents and carers: proposed academisation of Walter Halls Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know that the Governing Board of Walter Halls Early Years and Primary School has unanimously agreed to move forward with the process of academisation, with a view to joining Greenwood Academies Trust.

Last summer term, the board of governors agreed to explore this possibility and undertook a comprehensive project, meeting with three different Multi-Academy Trusts who all serve in our local area. This was a lengthy process, meeting with various leaders and visiting a range of their schools. Our conclusions were that Greenwood Academies Trust represented the best fit for our school, aligning with our ethos, values and offering substantial support to Walter Halls, in a range of ways, that unfortunately we currently feel is lacking from our local authority.

We recognise that this may be new to some families, and we want to explain what this means, why we are considering this change and give you the opportunity to ask questions and share your views.

What is academisation?
Academisation is the process through which a maintained local authority school becomes an academy. Academies are funded directly by the government and are part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), which is responsible for overseeing the schools within its group. Greenwood Academy Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust. Schools within a MAT work together, sharing expertise, resources and opportunities to support children's learning and development.

Why are we considering this change?
Our priority remains the children of Walter Halls: their education, wellbeing, happiness and future opportunities. As governors, we have a responsibility to consider how we can best support the school's long-term success and ensure that every child can thrive. The national educational landscape is exceptionally difficult: shrinking budgets, increasing needs, less resource and overall capacity from local authority teams to properly support us. Central government has repeatedly published their vision for all schools to join a MAT in the future, pooling resources and mechanisms of support. Our building is very old and in desperate need of investment; our children deserve a better environment in which to learn and joining a MAT may offer us broader opportunity to develop our grounds, support our staffing teams and enhance the opportunities that we're able to offer our children.

We are a school that is doing very well in so many ways. Our outcomes are strong and our Ofsted ratings are high. We do not need to join a MAT for these reasons, but we do feel that being part of a better team of schools, will mean we can continue to thrive into the future in so many other ways.

Consultation with our families:
Exploring academisation and a potential partnership with Greenwood Academy Trust is an important step. We want our school community to understand the proposal, have the opportunity to ask questions and feel involved as the process develops.

We have attached a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** document to provide further information and help answer some of the questions you may already have. Please take the time to read through this carefully – it should answer most of your concerns.

Come and talk to us:
We would like to invite parents and carers to a consultation drop-in session at school:
Date: Thursday 19 November 2026
Time: 3.30pm–5.30pm,
Venue: School Hall
You are welcome to drop in at any point during this time and have a chat.

Governors and members of the school leadership team will be available, alongside the **Chief Executive Officer and senior representatives of Greenwood Academy Trust**. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the Trust, understand what joining the Trust could mean for Walter Halls, ask questions and share your thoughts directly with those involved.

We understand that not everyone will be able to attend. If you would like to ask a question or find out more via email instead, please email **consultation@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk**.

We are committed to keeping parents and carers informed as the process develops. Your questions and feedback are important to us, and we want to ensure that families feel informed, listened to and able to take part in the conversation.

Thank you for your continued support of Walter Halls and our school community.

Kind regards,



Anna Hodgson
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Board
Walter Halls Early Years and Primary School



Emma Beardah
Headteacher