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**HEADTEACHER: MRS. E. PEARSON**

**25 September 2025**

## **Academy Conversion Consultation notification**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a meeting and vote by the Full Governing Body, we have decided to open a formal consultation with you to consider the conversion of the school into an Academy as part of an established nine school Multi-Academy Trust which is named EKC Schools Trust. Academies are state funded schools which are independent from the local authority (Kent County Council), and instead receive funding directly from the Department for Education.

The formal consultation period opens on 22/9/25 and will remain open until 31/9/25. We want to ensure you get every opportunity to give us your views on this proposed change and help ensure we fully explore the proposal to become an Academy, which is why we've chosen to consult so extensively.

It is important that everyone has a chance to ask questions and put their views across, therefore we are offering a range of opportunities to get involved, listed below. I very much hope that you will be able to attend one of these sessions:

**Parent/carers information meetings about proposed Academy conversion at Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary:**

<b>Audience:</b>	<b>Date and Time:</b>
Day Consultation (any Parents and Carers)	16/10/25 at 9:30
Evening Consultation (any Parents and Carers)	14/10/25 at 4:30

Following the consultation meetings, we will also invite written comments on the proposal to convert to Academy status and join the EKC Schools Trust. We will send you a short survey in both paper form and via a digital link after half term.





## Why are we thinking of doing this?

As a Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team, we believe that becoming an Academy with this particular Trust is the best choice for our school, and as key stakeholders we now want your views to inform our decision making.

The key reasons for this decision are all related to ensuring the best possible quality of education and outcomes for our pupils. Throughout the pandemic we have had the opportunity to reflect on what is most important for your child's education, and with a significant decrease in support and challenge from our Improvement Adviser due to less resource in the local authority, we now believe that the time is right to choose a different course. As a strong school we welcome a high level of external support and challenge, and the Trust we are proposing to join will be able to provide that alongside a significant school improvement package which will not add additional costs to our school and will include visits, enrichment, training, moderation and other school improvement activities.

Working with a number of like-minded schools within the Trust (which currently has nine schools in it), whilst maintaining our positive collaborations and links more locally, will provide a really strong bedrock for our continued growth and improvement.

As you will be aware, finances are very challenging across the sector and the Trust we have selected is a partnership organisation alongside a very large group of FE Colleges. Through this partnership we will have access to a wide range of services that will have a very positive impact on our financial position.

We have also considered the very important, and perhaps most significant reason for making this change; the impact on learning and curriculum. The EKC Schools Trust will be providing our teachers and pupils with a range of curriculum-enhancing opportunities through visits, events and other enrichment for your children.

These key reasons, alongside the autonomy this Trust will provide and shared visions and values, have led us to make this informed decision.

## What would the changes be?

As parents and stakeholders in our community, we can understand that you'll be interested in finding out what the changes would be, and how things might affect you. As an established Multi-Academy Trust, EKC Schools Trust has a website at [ekcschoolstrust.co.uk](http://ekcschoolstrust.co.uk) which you can view to find out more about the Trust, and also read some FAQs.

The key changes which would occur on becoming a part of EKC Schools Trust are below:

The school would become its own admissions authority, able to accept and grow provision in line with the needs of the community, helping to ensure we serve your needs better.

The Trust would become the employer of all staff but just as they do now, your Governors would be responsible for staffing your school.





The Trust would take charge of all of the land and assets from the Local Authority, safeguarding the school in the future and ensuring the buildings and assets remain well managed and fit for purpose for the education of your children.

The school can continue with its own strategic vision for growth and continue to ensure excellence in teaching, learning and assessment, but will have a greater ownership over what is taught and how it is delivered so that the people who know your children best can determine what they learn.

### What won't change?

EKC Schools Trust believes that our school should remain locally managed, with no changes to any of the day-to-day activities. That means that while the Trust can enhance what we do, there are a number of things which wouldn't be changed. A few of these are set out below:

Our Governing Body would still make local decisions – the school's current Governing Body would be changed to become a local board for the school, with delegated authority to make management decisions. It would feed into a larger EKC Schools Trust Governing Body which would give strategic direction to the wider Trust and provide added scrutiny of each school. However, all the decisions about how your school is run, how the curriculum is designed, how behaviour is managed, the teaching policies and procedures will all remain the responsibility of the Governors.

The local brand of the school would remain the same – EKC Schools Trust believes it can enhance service delivery but doesn't want to change anything else. It believes in the local management of the school, and in allowing us the freedom to continue as we do already.

There won't be any expensive changes to uniform – we know that it's important you aren't affected by this change, so there'll be no costly new uniforms required, and there won't be any other changes that would cost you anything more.

School holiday dates, term times, school day times and all organisational decisions will be decided by Governors and the Headteacher to meet the needs of our local community

Following the consultation period the Governing Body will consider all of the feedback and views it has received during the consultation and will then make the final decision on whether to legally complete the process.

Please look at the Trust website which will give you an overview of everything the Trust can bring to our school: [www.ekcschoolstrust.org](http://www.ekcschoolstrust.org)

Yours sincerely,

Rev S Lillicrap

Mrs E Pearson

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

