



Netherfield Primary and Pre-School

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Dear Parents and Carers

You may recall that I wrote to you in March with the news that we are to become an academy by joining the Greater Nottingham Education Trust (GNET), along with Carlton le Willows. I am pleased to report that we expect conversion to occur in time for the start of the new school year in September.

We are looking forward to closer ties between the two schools, which will bring a number of benefits:

- We will have more effective transition between Year 6 and Year 7 meaning a much better start to secondary education for your children.
- We will be able to save money by sharing resources and increasing efficiency – meaning we will have more to spend on your children.
- We will share staff training so that Inset days are the same across the two schools; this will hopefully help parents who often have to juggle childcare.

From a day-to-day point of view you shouldn't see much change. We will not be changing our uniform, our schools name will remain the same and we are not changing the times of the school day or our term dates. However, we hope that over time you will feel the benefits of having one organisation, the Greater Nottingham Education Trust (GNET) nurturing the children of this community from 2 years of age right through to eighteen.

I would like to invite you to drop-in sessions to discuss Netherfield changing to academy status, so if you would like to know more please come along. These will be:

- 08:45 – 09:30 Tuesday 18th July
- 15:00 – 15:30 Tuesday 18th July
- 17:30 – 18:00 Tuesday 18th July

I will be on hand to answer your questions along with Mr Craig Weaver, Headteacher of Carlton le Willows, and representatives of Netherfield's governing body.

I look forward to meeting you then. In the meantime, please find overleaf some frequently asked questions about academy conversion that may be of interest.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hardern
Headteacher



Welcome to the Greater Nottingham Education Trust

Introduction

Netherfield Primary School's association with Carlton le Willows goes back over sixty years. The governing body have decided to strengthen this existing partnership by joining the Greater Nottingham Education Trust (GNET), established in 2016, out of Carlton le Willows Academy Trust.

For this to happen, Netherfield has to become an Academy, which means it is still state-maintained, but from September 2017, will be run independently of local authority control with help from GNET.

As Carlton le Willows and Netherfield will be part of the same Trust, it means they will be working even more closely together to deliver the very best value-led education for the children and young people in both schools. However, both schools will retain their distinctive identities and ethos.

From September, the new Trust will only include Carlton le Willows and Netherfield Primary School, but in the longer term we hope some other local primary schools will want to join us; creating a primary / secondary hub.

I hope the following sections will help address any early questions you may have about Netherfield joining the Trust.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the name of my child's school change?

No.

Will my child's school uniform change?

There are no plans to change your child's school uniform and the local governing body will continue to consider if any changes to uniform are needed.

Will the times of the school day change?

The times of the school day will continue to be decided by the local governing body.

Will the school holiday dates change?

School holiday dates will continue to be decided by the local governing body.

Will my child still get Free School Meals?

Parents will still be able to access Free School Meals if their child is eligible.

Who controls the school budget?

The local governing body and Head Teacher will continue to control the school budget.



Will my child's class size increase?

Class sizes and other operational matters will continue to be decided by the local governing body and Head Teacher.

Will the staff at my child's school change?

No, staff will remain at their current locations. Of course, staff may choose to apply for promotions within the Trust or outside but this will be a matter of individual choice and not a consequence of joining the Trust.

Will the school still follow the same systems for reporting to parents/carers?

Schools will continue to communicate with parents in line with individual school policies.

Will staff jobs be safe?

Yes, although individual schools will continue to review staffing on an ongoing basis as they have always done.

Will my child notice any differences?

In the early days, probably not, as the school will continue to operate in the same as it does now. However, over time we believe joining the Trust will improve education provision.

By working in closer partnership, our schools can continue to develop good practice in teaching and learning, share best practice in staff development and training, improve transition arrangements and make savings in procurement and central services that will allow us to direct more resources into the classroom.

Also, using the skills and expertise found across the Trust we will be able to offer pupils a far wider range of extra-curricular, and enrichment opportunities.

What is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)?

A MAT is a group of academies operating under one Trust. GNET is a MAT. As required by the Department of Education, GNET has three levels of governance – Members, Directors and Local Governors.

Local governing bodies have responsibility for overseeing the running of each academy in the Trust. This means there is always a role for parents and staff in the governance of their own school.

How big will this new Trust become?

Although the size of the Trust is not a goal in itself, it will ultimately grow. However, this will happen over time and be dependent upon schools wanting to join us or, alternatively, upon our capacity to work to help support schools.



How will GNET be held to account?

As with all Trusts, through its governance arrangements and ultimately by the Secretary of State for Education.

Commitment to Equality

The Trust will continue to be fully committed to complying with Equality Duty.

We will ensure that all our practices:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations across all protected characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

We will ensure due regard is taken to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages.
- Taking steps to meet different needs.
- Encouraging participation when it is disproportionately low.

