

Farmor's School
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Friday 19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Multi Academy Trust – Parent update and further consultation

We wrote to you in November about the possibility of Farmor's School joining The Athelstan Trust – a well-established multi-academy trust (MAT) which has schools in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The November letter is linked again [here](#).

Following the November letter, there was a meeting for parents on Wednesday 3rd December with school governors and Mark Surowiec, Headteacher. Although only a small number of parents joined, the meeting was positive and productive with no concerns raised.

Since then, we have been pursuing parts 1 and 2 of the 'due diligence' process, in line with the timescale set out in our November letter. This has involved a range of 'desktop' research activities, with The Athelstan Trust reviewing our school as well as us reviewing The Athelstan Trust. A range of staff have undertaken visits to Athelstan secondary schools, and their central team staff have also visited Farmor's to present to staff and answer questions.

The potential benefits of us joining a Multi Academy Trust remain unchanged – these are outlined in our November letter (linked above). The reasons for pursuing due diligence to join The Athelstan Trust, rather than any of the other MATs that we considered, also remain the same: Our continuing research has suggested that there are many potential positives, and supported our requirement that they meet all of our 'non-negotiable' criteria, as outlined in our November letter. Again, further information on The Athelstan Trust can be found on their website [here](#).

The next step is that our Full Governing Board will make a decision in July about whether we should continue to the next stage. This is not a binding decision as such, but it would mean that both parties (Farmor's School and The Athelstan Trust, if their trustees are in agreement) would then approach the Department for Education officially, with an application. If the DFE agree to our proposal, we would very likely move towards joining The Athelstan Trust in around the Spring term of 2027.

If you have any comments that you would like to be considered when school governors meet in July, they can be added using the link [here](#) – deadline for completion Friday 26th June.

Yours faithfully

Sam Bartholomew (Chair of Governors) and Mark Surowiec (Headteacher)