

Consultation on a proposed merger between two academy trusts Partnership Learning and QED Academy Trust

1.0 Introduction

QED is a successful four-school academy trust in Hillingdon. In 2022 QED trustees reviewed their trust's strategic direction and decided to explore various options - including the possibility of a merger, which became their preferred option.

QED's criteria for a merger partner were: a successful, medium-sized academy trust in London committed to delegation, with experience in primary, secondary and special education and the capacity and culture to integrate QED into their trust. QED researched a number of potential trusts and identified Partnership Learning – a 13 school academy trust in the 15125 and 50.0 Borough of Barking and Dagenham but also in Havering, Waltham Forest and Southend - as a particularly good fit as a potential merger partner. Initial contacts between the two trusts confirmed that Partnership Learning was responsive to exploring the benefits which the greater scale of a combined trust could bring.

During the 2022-

3.0 Partnership Learning

Year of formation	2015
Current no of schools	13
Number of pupils	10,000
Range of schools	Secondary (4) Primary (5) All-through (2) Special (1) and UTC (1)
Ofsted Gradings	All Good or Outstanding apart from two working towards
Local Authority Locations	Barking & Dagenham (9) Waltham Forest (1) Havering (2) Southend (1)

Since its formation in February 2015 Partnership Learning has grown to oversee thirteen schools, mainly in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and

10.0 Implications for Local Governing Boards (LGBs)

Local Governing Boards in both QED and Partnership Learning would continue to operate as currently as both trusts currently have very similar schemes of delegation.

11.0 The Consultation Process

11.1 Key Dates for the Consultation

Consultation Period Starts: 12 noon on Friday 22nd September 2023

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on Friday 20th October 2023

11.2 Actions following on from the Consultation

Partnership Learning and QED's Boards of Trustees will read and consider all responses received.

The trusts will produce a summary of the responses to the consultation, which will be published on their websites: www.partnershiplearning.com and www.qedacademytrust.org.uk

The trusts will address comments received and will explain in the summary on their websites how they intend to take into account in their plans the comments received.

12.0 How to contact the Trusts and find out more

You may find out more about the two trusts and the proposal by visiting the Trust websites:

www.partnershiplearning.com

www.qedacademytrust.org.uk

or by emailing either of the Trusts, at:

office@partnershiplearning.com

info@qedacademytrust.org.uk

13.0 Consultation Views and Comments

The purpose of this consultation

or by post to either of the following addresses:

Chief Executive,
Partnership Learning,
Parsloes Avenue,
Dagenham,
RM9 5QS

Chief Executive,
QED Academy Trust,
Northwood School,
Pinner Road,
Northwood,
HA6 1QN