

Welcome & Consultation: Parent Meeting



Meridian
Trust

Representatives:

Dan Ainscow & Liam Murphy (CJS), Rebecca Sawford (CIS)
Mark Woods (CEO, Meridian Trust) and Jonathan Newman (Head Teacher at Histon and
Impington Park Primary School)

Date:

Wednesday 26th February at 9:00am (CJS), 2:30pm (CIS), and 6:00pm (online)

By the end of this meeting we want you to:

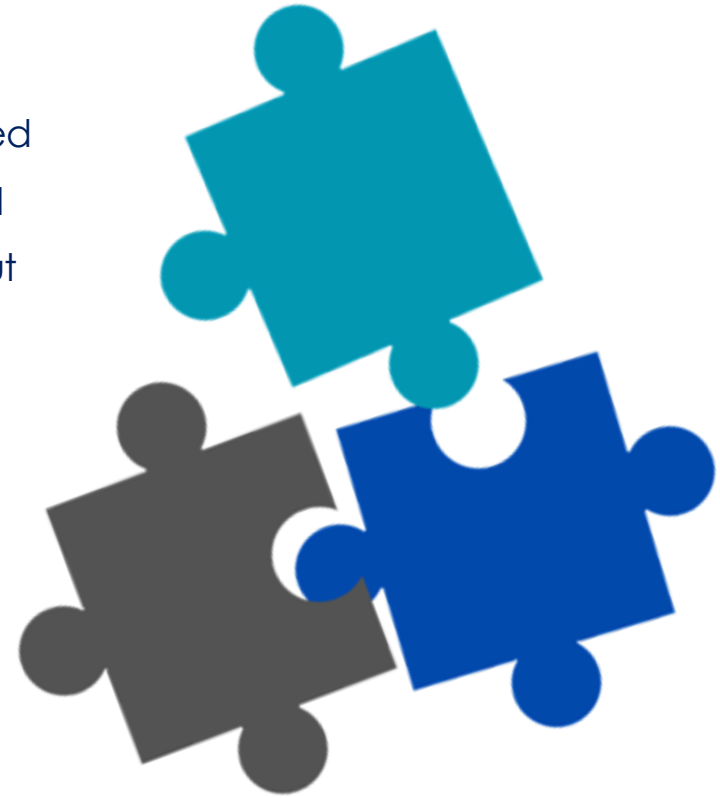
- **Understand the proposed changes** and the reasons behind them
- Better **understand the process and timescales**
- Feel **more informed on the impact** on your child's education
- Put names to faces you may not know yet
- Be **assured that the proposed change is in the best interest of all** involved and that true collaboration and better outcomes for all pupils is at the heart of the proposed plans.
- Be **clear on the process of asking questions and sharing your opinions** to best inform the decision of the CIS & CJS governing bodies.



Welcome & Introduction

Thank you for taking time to join us today.

This meeting aims to provide an overview of the proposed change of status to Crosshall Infant School and Crosshall Junior School, introduce you to Meridian Trust and set out ways you can share your views and opinions within a proposed timeline.



What are we consulting with you on?

- **Crosshall Infant School** is a single academy trust (SAT)
- **Crosshall Junior School** is a separate SAT of its' own
- Historically both schools are on the same site and support children through their primary years.

- However, as independent SATs both schools have:
 - delivered their own curriculums;
 - faced their own financial challenges;
 - had limited opportunities for collaborative working with the wider education world;
 - overall, felt isolated as individual schools;

What is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)?

A multi-academy trust is a system where several schools are run under the leadership of a single governing body. Academies in the UK school system are educational institutions that rely on state funding directly from the Department for Education (DfE). When they join a trust, funding is shared between the schools under an Academy Funding Agreement.

That said, individual schools are still recognised as individual entities in so far as they receive individual Ofsted assessments. Schools within a MAT are grouped from a financial and business perspective, and may share curriculum and performance standards to align with the Trust's overall ethos and vision.



What are the benefits of joining a MAT and Meridian Trust?

- become part of a family of schools;
- sharing resources and provisions;
- raising pupil attainment;
- a more joined-up approach between CIS and CJS transition;
- all schools within Meridian Trust share similar ethos and vision;
- a more focused direction and future for CJS and CIS;
- expertise of an established trust;
- purchasing power of a larger organisation;
- staff training and development opportunities;
- aligned curriculum R-Y6 will improve consistency of provision and approach across Crosshall site for both schools;

We understand there may be apprehension within our community around MATs, in particular, due to interactions and experiences they may have had with other trusts.

Both CJS and CIS governing bodies have given very careful and considered deliberation to the future of Crosshall schools; and believe that Meridian Trust are the right fit for our parents, staff, pupils and a co-ordinated future for Crosshall schools.



Timeline

Consultation Period

To join Meridian Trust started on Friday **7th February 2025** ends on Friday **14th March 2025**.

Governors' Review Period

Governing bodies from CJS and CIS will review feedback and comments from parents, staff and pupils.

Final decision communicated to parents, staff, pupils and community

Next Step

If decision is made to proceed, a case is made to the Advisory Board to the Department for Education's Regional Director's Office.

Full Transfer

Crosshall Infant School and Crosshall Junior School hope to become part of Meridian Trust **from 1st September 2025**

Welcome to Meridian Trust: Mark



About the Trust

Meridian Trust has over a decade of highly successful experience delivering great schools and serving communities across our region.

As of September 2024, there are 30 schools within Meridian Trust

- 1 all through school (4-19)
- 14 primary
- 12 secondary
- 3 special educational needs
- 3 new schools in development

In addition to operating schools, we are the home of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub, and train more than 150 new teachers each year through Meridian Trust ITT.

As a strong, regional multi-academy trust we currently operate schools across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire.

We are proud to have strong partnerships within all these communities. For more information, visit: www.meridiantrust.co.uk.



20 miles around Cambridge, Peterborough and main communication routes between



Achievement for all



Valuing People



Pursuit of Excellence



High Quality Learning Environment



Extending the Boundaries of Learning

Our Vision...

High-quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities

Our Mission...

To deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in schools at the heart of their local communities so that:

- Young people become successful learners and confident, empowered individuals;
- Young people are encouraged to think for themselves and act for others, equipping them with the values, attributes, knowledge and skills to make a rewarding contribution to society;
- Every school is a hub for community activities, a centre for extended services and a source of immense pride for students, their families, and other local stakeholders;
- Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach where they are equally valued and supported;
- Well-run schools retain and develop their distinct contextual identity while sharing and contributing to the Meridian Trust values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems.



Achievement
for all



Valuing People



Pursuit of
Excellence



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning

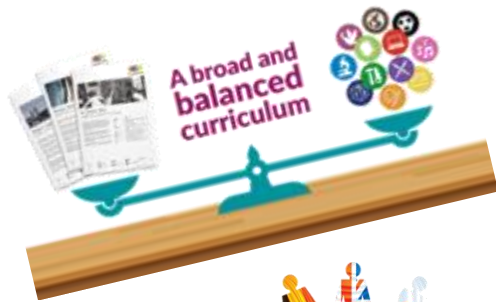
Children at the centre of all we do...



Meridian Primary Curriculum Vision and Development



What does Meridian Trust offer to our children?



TODAY I
AM
EXCITED
ABOUT
EVERYTHING

MEMORABLE
TEACHING



We have a proven record of:

- Accelerated academic school improvement
- MAT primary data is above national averages at all levels (Phonics, KS1, KS2)
- KS4 MAT P8 “Above Average” and in Top 5 of MATs with more than 10 academies
- Bespoke provision in response to the educational and social context of the setting
- Successful collaboration with other schools and agencies
- Well thought out training, career and promotion opportunities for our staff
- Experienced and successful school leadership
- Positive Ofsted outcomes
- Rapidly becoming an integral part of the local community



Meeting the needs of every learner (SEND)...

Leadership:

Executive Director – Mary Abeyasekera

Assistant Director – Amy Wright

SEND Core Support – Kathy Bacon, Victoria Bowyer

What We Do:

- Shared Terminology
- Shared Graduated Approach
- SENDCo Network
- Quality Assurance structure
- Appropriate Provision QA
- Shared OAP – Coproduced
- Shared Approach to Therapeutic Thinking
- Case support
- Specialist support from SEND school colleagues



**School-led
CPD**

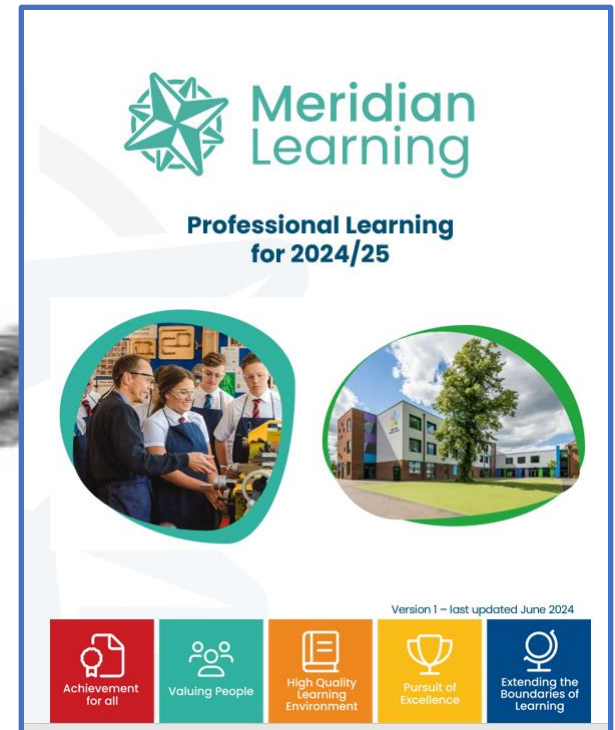
**Trust-led professional
learning**

**Trust-led networks and
directorates support**

**The Cambridge/ Pilgrim
Partnership
Cambridgeshire &
Peterborough Teaching
School Hub**

**DfE-led provision (e.g.
Curriculum Hubs)**

**Deliberate Partnerships
& External Providers**



Meridian Learning

**Professional Learning
for 2024/25**

Version 1 – last updated June 2024

Achievement for all

Valuing People

High Quality Learning Environment

Pursuit of Excellence

Extending the Boundaries of Learning

Operational excellence and expertise...



The Central team, hub structures and local school-based support provides expertise in:

- **IT** – We provide central services, solutions and security for more than 50 schools across the region.
- **Estates and H&S**– Ongoing Trust capital projects exceed £27m for 2023/4. Central team supports and manages local site team.
- **Finance** – Central team support local finance expertise with centralised accounting and budgeting systems. We manage a total trust budget in excess of £100m per year.
- **HR** – Centrally coordinated team support and advise schools (working in a hub model).
- **Operations** – Cross-trust management and procurement of key contracts (in consultation with the school)
- **Communications** – Central trust contract supports and drives school planning
- **Recruitment and Retention** – Central recruitment team support schools. Meridian Learning / internal team on the job training / professional qualifications, apprenticeships all encouraged to support staff development. Excellent record of successful internal promotion.
- **Governance** – Central support for delivery and structure.



Achievement
for all



Valuing People



Pursuit of
Excellence



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning

Meridian Trust Board of Trustees

Up to 12 directors/trustees with specific expertise and experience:

- Overall strategy
- Cross trust scrutiny
- Overall accountability
- Determine scheme of delegation for academies
 - Pay and remuneration determination
 - Governance Appointments
- Link Trustees / Trust Policy and Scrutiny Committee Chairs

Meridian Trust Members

- 5 including a maximum of 2 trustees
- Appoint and hold trustees to account
- Establish and maintain articles
- Appoint auditors and receive audits

Academy Council Champion

Roles:

- **SEND and Vulnerable Students**
- **Student Welfare incl. Safeguarding**
- Achievement and Curriculum
- Student Experience (stakeholders)
- Finance and Resources

Academy Council

- Pupil achievement
- Academy community
- Academy standards

Uniform, day, term times – local issues

- Application of trust policies (approve procedures)

- Consulted with and recommendations made on academy finance, premises and personnel



Executive

Chief Executive
Executive Board
Principals' Committees
Operational Directorate

Trust Policy and Scrutiny Committees

- Finance and Resources
- Audit and Risk
- Curriculum & Standards

Establish policies, ensure compliance, hold executive to account, analyse progress

Membership: skills based – for Crosshalls

- Chair of Academy Council (Trust appointed) – discussion with current
- Up to 6 local community trust appointees – discussion with you!
- Academy Principal (ex officio)
- Senior trust executive colleague – TBC (usually a Directorate member or Primary leadership colleague. May ask Heads to undertake role in another Meridian academy (if already doing something else, fine ☺))
- 2 Elected parents (review who holds these positions now)

Membership: skills based

- 4 trustees (including Chair)
- Up to 3 non-trustee voting members (ACs/Skills)
- Up to 3 non-voting members (succession and skills)
- Executive officers (as appropriate)

What will change on Day 1?

There will be very little visible change in the schools on Day 1 as a direct result of the schools joining Meridian Trust. Some schools change in mid-term (eg 1st Oct) and it is just another day.....

The staff, uniform, premises, timings and curriculum will continue to be very much as they are. Change will be evolutionary, in line with existing plans (eg phonics review) and collaborative.

There may be administrative changes – eg new MIS, payment, Comms systems but that is all.

The changes that we hope you will see, will be a general continued improvement in the performance and running of the school, happier headteachers and hopefully some new and improved resources and options for the pupils to benefit from.



Questions and Answers

How to respond:

Complete the online survey by following the links on the school websites

meridiantrust.co.uk/consultations/

or crosshallinfant.co.uk/whole-school-correspondence/

or crosshalljunior.co.uk/our-school/newsletters/consultation-to-change-status-of-school-1

