

Monday 19th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Members,

In June 2025, we shared that Hatfield Community Free School Trust (HCFST) would be undertaking a careful exploration of future trust options, including joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We are writing to update you on progress.

Progress to Date

Over the past term, the Trust Board and Senior Leadership Team worked collaboratively on this project. As part of this process:

- **The interests of our pupils, staff and wider community remain central to all discussions.**
- **A detailed review of local MATs was completed** considering size, values, educational ethos, leadership structures, school improvement arrangements and geographical fit.
- **The review was informed by ongoing guidance from the Department for Education (DfE)** to ensure processes remain thorough, transparent and aligned with statutory expectations.
- **Initial engagement has begun with two local trusts.** Senior Leaders and representatives from the Trust Board are holding early conversations with two trusts that align well with our values and priorities. No commitment has been made at this stage.
- **Additional trusts may be considered.** Alongside the two trusts already engaged, we have identified a small number of others that we may wish to explore further.

What Happens Next?

There is no predetermined outcome to this process, and no decisions have been made. As we develop a clearer understanding of opportunities and implications, we will make sure you remain fully informed.

Your Questions

As promised, we will continue to update our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page on the website. If you have a question/s, you can submit them here: [Hatfield Community Free School - FAQs](#) We will respond as soon as information is available.

Thank you for your continued support and for engaging so thoughtfully with this important work.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Maxine Kinghorn
Chair of Trustees



Mrs Victoria Hobson
Principal