



19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a parent or carer with a child in one of our Trust schools, Vision Academy Learning Trust and The 1590 Trust, we write to you today to provide information on the proposed harmonisation of our respective Trusts and to offer you the opportunity to put forward any comments you may have.

We can now confirm the proposed name for the merged Trust will be **Vision 1590 Academy Trust**.

Whilst this note simply seeks any personal thoughts or observations you may have, ongoing dialogue and communication will continue as the proposal moves forward.

On a very practical level, the proposed merger is not expected to result in any significant change to those people who currently teach and support your child.

The bringing together of the two Trusts will however allow for greater capacity to support those working in our schools by further enhancing the services the Trust can provide to its schools. Another significant benefit is that due to the size and structure of the new Trust, the Trust would now receive increased direct capital funding from central government to improve and maintain our schools.

In putting forward this proposal, the Trust Boards are keen to ensure any new arrangements are carefully nurtured to create an inclusive, collaborative, and aspirational organisation recognising the distinctiveness of each school.

The merged Trust would have responsibility for eleven primary schools and four secondary schools, including two sixth forms across Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. The Trust would provide high quality education to some 8,000 pupils and employ some 1250 teaching and non-teaching personnel.

A list of the schools and their current Trusts are shown below;

The 1590 Trust

Primary Schools

Bader Primary School
Bewley Primary School
Kirklevington Primary School
Layfield Primary School
Levendale Primary School
Whitehouse Primary (due to join the Trust in April 2024).

Secondary Schools

Conyers School

Vision Academy Learning Trust

Primary Schools

Chandlers Ridge Academy
Junction Farm Primary
Saltburn Primary
The Links Primary
Whinstone Primary

Secondary Schools

Egglescliffe School and Sixth Form
Huntcliff School
Laurence Jackson

We believe the proposed amalgamation will bring immediate specific advantages to both existing Trusts. For The 1590 Trust where Conyers School is the only secondary school, the opportunity to have formal collaboration with three other secondary academies will create greater opportunity for support, challenge and collaboration across Key Stage 3,4 and post 16. For VALT and Egglescliffe in particular, having a second Post 16 provision in Conyers brings similar benefits. For Primary schools, the ability to network and share best practice across a range of twelve primary schools with focussed support and challenge across early years, KS1, KS2 and the transition to Key Stage 3 opens up significant additional opportunities.

At a time when the highly regarded and successful CEO of VALT is looking to retire, the proposed amalgamation ensures certainty in leadership at all levels going forward, by securing an experienced highly effective CEO to lead the new Trust with current leadership development programmes within the two current Trusts harmonised to identify and develop the leaders of the future.

This extends to governance where again the excellent and committed Trust Board and Local Governance structures in place at VALT and The 1590 Trust will be utilised to ensure effective governance and oversight remains a strength within the new Trust. Parent governors will remain a strong feature of the governance arrangements of the merged Trust.

The additional capacity will allow the new single Trust to further enhance and develop the leadership and management, teaching and learning and support structures needed to continue to drive forward the ambitions of those who lead, work in and attend the Trusts schools.

The amalgamation will create capacity to enlarge and further develop support for teaching and learning by utilising and sharing best practice so the performance of all schools can be raised to those achieved at the best.

It will allow Trust and school leaders to provide greater in house support and challenge to continue to enhance and develop a coherent and effective 3 – 19 curriculum with clear future career pathways.

Support services will be significantly boosted by the increased capacity created by the amalgamation. The CEO and their team can develop the key financial, safeguarding, governance, careers, HR and school improvement services this significantly sized Trust will need utilising the excellence that already exists within VALT and The 1590 Trusts respectively.

As stated previously, a significant amount of work is being undertaken including detailed due diligence by both Trusts on finance, leadership, governance, risk and school improvement but we are keen to hear the early views and thoughts of those who chose to send their children and young people to our schools.

These comments can be sent to the newly formed Merger Steering Group, which has representatives from both Trust Boards and senior Trust leaders at the following email address response@VALT1590consultation.org.uk

We would kindly ask that all representations are received by Friday 16th February 2024.

Written and produced jointly between Vision Academy Learning Trust and The 1590 Trust.



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Chair of Trustees- VALT



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