



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, Brookburn Community Primary School and Barlow Hall Primary School are part of the LINK Learning Trust. We joined together to form a multi-academy trust (MAT) in 2017 with a mission to put community and families at the heart of everything we do and ensure our children access a great education and have real choices in their lives.

Building a strong and experienced partnership to improve the education we offer

We want to be able to further improve the education we currently offer, build on the positive impact our school has had on local neighbourhoods in the south of Manchester and protect the distinctive identity and ethos of our schools.

We believe that joining with other like-minded primary schools is the best way to achieve this. This is why we are proposing to join together this September with another high-performing multi-academy trust, the M20 Learning Trust. There are also two other currently maintained primary schools in Manchester, Northenden Community School and Cavendish Primary School, who have applied to join our proposed new amalgamated trust. Manchester City Council is fully supportive of our proposals.

This proposed new trust – an amalgamation of the M20 Learning Trust, the LINK Learning Trust, Northenden and Cavendish primary schools – would raise education standards and build on our strengths, while still providing families with a choice of school. The trust would have a new name, the Connect Alliance Trust.

If this change goes ahead, none of the schools would change their names, identities or uniforms.

A trust with shared values and leaders, trustees and governors who focus on excellence, collaboration and respect

The leadership of Brookburn Primary and Barlow Hall Primary already have a strong working relationship with the [M20 Learning Trust](#). The M20 Learning Trust is currently made up of Beaver Road Primary School, an Ofsted outstanding five-form entry primary school in Didsbury. In addition, they have a long term partnership with Martenscroft Nursery School and Children's Centres in Hulme, which is Ofsted outstanding. [Northenden](#) is an Ofsted good one-form entry primary school, while [Cavendish](#) is an Ofsted good three-form entry primary school.

All the schools in the proposed new trust are committed to excellent educational outcomes of their pupils, have well managed finances, high quality leadership and governance teams together with shared vision and values.

By coming together, we would have greater specialist knowledge across the curriculum and would be able to provide more opportunities for all our children. We would also be able to improve the training and development of our staff, which would help in the recruitment and retention of experienced teachers and support staff.

As a larger trust, we would have greater financial resilience and full financial autonomy over our schools' funding. Our school leaders would continue to decide how to spend our funding so that it serves our children's best interests.

Continuing to succeed

We are very proud of the strong identity of our schools and believe the quality of education in our schools would improve because of this amalgamation. In terms of day-to-day practicalities, there would be very little difference to the lives of our children, their families and the staff in our schools. The move to become a bigger trust of five primary schools would only add to our educational offering.

Next steps

We have submitted a proposal to the Department for Education and we are waiting for this to be approved. Your views are an important part of shaping our future trust, and we will now be consulting with parents and carers, staff, trade unions and our community partners.

We will be holding a consultation between 10th March and 4th April in which you can find out more information and submit your views through an online form. A link to this information and form will be sent out on 10th March. While our consultation is open, we will be providing open evening opportunities for parents and carers to speak with school and trust leaders/academy councillors and to ask questions. The open evenings for parents and carers will take place on;

- **Monday 10th March between 5pm and 6pm at Barlow Hall Primary School**
- **Thursday 13th March between 5.15pm and 6.15pm at Brookburn Community Primary School**

A question and answer (Q&A) document can be found at the end of this letter and we endeavour to answer any other questions you have during these open evenings.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your contribution to our school community.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Young
Chair of LINK Learning Trust



Jayne Kennedy
Executive Headteacher