

## Academy Transfer of Sexey's School Academy to Sherborne Area Schools' Trust

Following detailed consideration, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South West, Hannah Woodhouse, has agreed that Sexey's School Academy should be transferred to another trust. This is because the school has been judged inadequate by Ofsted and she has concerns that the academy's governance, its management of safeguarding, and educational standards, are unlikely to improve rapidly and sustainably without further intervention. Sherborne Area Schools Trust has been provisionally identified as the most suitable trust to manage the school going forward. The reason for this is their experience of secondary school improvement, their capacity to support Sexey's School and the benefits to Sexey's School of being part of the trust, and the strategic fit with the trust's other schools.

Your views are an important part of the decision-making process. To ensure this is the best decision for the academy, and before making a final decision we want to gather the views of those associated with the school's community. The head teacher board (HTB) provide advice and challenge on transfers. Your views will be considered by the South West HTB meeting on 21 October 2019, after which the RSC will make a final decision as to whether Sherborne Area Schools Trust is the right trust to transfer the academy to.

### You can get involved in two ways:

1. You are invited to attend a meeting being held by Sherborne Area Schools Trust (SAST) on 9 October at 6pm at Sexey's School. This will be an opportunity to hear more about SAST, the transfer, ask questions and to share your views.
2. You can respond to the following questions via email:
  - a. What is your relationship to the school?
  - b. The current proposal is for Sexey's School Academy to be transferred to Sherborne Area Schools Trust. What are your views on that option? Do you have any alternative proposals for the future of the school which you think should be considered?
  - c. Are there any further comments/suggestions you would like to make regarding the school's future?

Please email your responses to [RSC-SW.HTB@Education.gov.uk](mailto:RSC-SW.HTB@Education.gov.uk). The deadline for responses is 9am Monday 14 October 2019.

We will not usually provide individual responses to representations received. Following the HTB's consideration, a summary of discussion and decision will be published in the HTB minutes at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-west-england-headteacher-board>

7 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to the formal notice and information included above from the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, there is some additional information below about the meeting and the Trust.

The meeting will start at 6.00pm and we will aim to finish by 7.00pm. The agenda will be:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation from the Trust
3. Opportunity for any questions

In attendance will be the following:

- Steve Hillier - CEO, Nigel Rees - Chair of Trustees and Steve Smith – Head of Improvement from SAST
- Helen Cullen - Headteacher, Janet Wilson - Chair of Trustees from Sexey's School
- Elizabeth David and Giles de Rivaz from the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office

The Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) is a Church of England trust, with students from 0-19, in 3 secondary and 10 primary schools serving local town and village communities in North Dorset and South Somerset.

We believe there are shared core values – partnership and collaboration, the pursuit of excellence, promoting holistic lifelong learning and recognising equality and distinctiveness. Every school in the Trust is an equal partner. We promote school distinctiveness serving the specific local community.

The Trust wishes to develop further the strong reputations and qualities of Sexey's including its character, Sixth Form and Boarding provision. There are real opportunities for joint working, improvement support and future development of the facilities at the school.

There will be no change to the name of the school, the uniform or admissions arrangements. All our schools have their own headteacher, leadership team and local governors. We will be working in a complementary way with the existing governors, leaders, and staff to support and build upon all the changes and work already underway.

We will share the information provided at the meeting on the school website for those who are unable to attend.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

SM Hillier  
SAST