



Department
for Education

**Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire & West
Yorkshire**

Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Email: LWY.RSC@Education.gov.uk

March 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I wrote to you on 30 January to update you on plans to transfer West End Academy to a new trust. As you will be aware, this followed the decision taken by the current trust, Wakefield City Academies Trust (WCAT), to work with the Department for Education to look for a new trust for each of its schools.

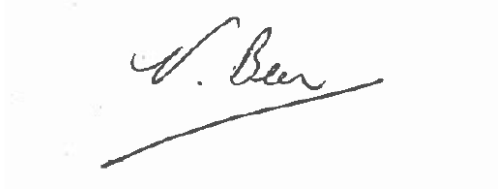
On 10 October 2017, we announced that Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT) had been provisionally identified as the trust for West End Academy to join. Following this, there was an opportunity for staff, parents, governors, local authorities, MPs and other interested parties to contact the Department for Education to share views on this proposal. In my letter of 30 January I explained that, following careful consideration of all views shared, ministers decided that West End Academy would not join OGAT, and instead provisionally identified Waterton Academy Trust as the new preferred trust. Following this, there was a further opportunity for all interested parties to contact the department before 13 February, to share views on the proposal.

Following careful consideration of all views and information shared with the Department for Education, ministers have now decided that West End Academy will join Waterton Academy Trust. I am confident that Waterton is best placed to support West End Academy and I have attached further detail on Waterton for your information. If you have not yet been able to speak with representatives from Waterton, they would be very happy for you to get in touch.

In terms of next steps, we will transfer West End Academy to Waterton within the current academic year, and are working closely with WCAT and Waterton to ensure that this is done with minimal disruption to pupils, staff and parents. Our priority remains ensuring that all pupils receive an excellent education and I believe that setting this clear direction now will provide further stability for the remainder of the academic year. I strongly believe that staff, parents and pupils at the academy should feel positive about the future of West End Academy, moving forward with Waterton. In addition, we are working closely with Waterton to determine the funding and resources that will be provided to West End Academy to secure an excellent education for all pupils.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued engagement with this process. I remain committed to working with all involved to secure the best possible educational outcomes for every pupil at West End Academy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light background. The signature reads "V. Beer" in a cursive style, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

VICKY BEER CBE

Regional Schools Commissioner - Lancashire & West Yorkshire