

Waterton Academy Trust and West End Academy

We have now confirmed that West End Academy will join Waterton Academy Trust (Waterton). This note provides further information on the trust.

Waterton is a primary school trust based in Wakefield. It was established in September 2014 with Walton Primary School being the founding member. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the trust is Dave Dickinson, who was previously head teacher at Walton Primary School.

The aim of the trust is to develop a group of exceptional primary academies that is uncompromising in its intention to deliver excellence and secure outcomes for children that they truly deserve. There are ten schools in the trust. One school holds an Outstanding Ofsted rating, while another seven are rated as good. Two academies joined the trust as sponsored academies and have not yet been inspected by Ofsted.

The foundations of the trust's improvement work is to learn from each other, share experiences and be mutually supportive across the entire academy community. Schools in the trust work closely together sharing best practice to support improvements and developments in teaching and learning. This collaborative approach ensures that the trust has the ability to support and consolidate performance in Good and Outstanding Schools as well as turning around underperforming schools and making substantial improvements to standards.

Since being provisionally identified as the new trust for West End Academy, Waterton has engaged with stakeholders including parents and carers, staff, professional associations and governors. The trust has carefully considered the educational position of the academy and has identified the current areas requiring improvement and action. When West End joins the trust, Waterton plans in particular to work alongside the headteacher and school leadership team to build on the already significant developments in teaching that have been delivered.

The Department for Education received positive feedback from meetings Waterton held with parents and staff during the listening period in February 2018. Support for the academy was offered by alternative trusts, however having carefully considered the options and all views and information shared we have determined that Waterton Academy Trust is best-placed to support West End.

Now that Waterton has been confirmed as the new trust for West End, it plans to engage more frequently with parents and carers, and will be in touch shortly with further details.