



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Birch Hill Primary School

Becoming an Academy and joining
Maiden Erlegh Trust
Consultation with Stakeholders
April 2023

Consultation Link <https://forms.office.com/e/60zhDsD8cq>

Introduction

- After much research and discussion the Governing Body believes that becoming an academy is now in the best interests of Birch Hill Primary School – for our children, staff and wider community.
- Our preferred option is to join a local Multi Academy Trust and the Governing Body believe that Maiden Erlegh Trust is the right Trust for us to join.
- ***What is an academy?*** Academies are directly funded by central government, operate outside of local authority control, and have more freedom over their finances and curriculum.
- ***What is a MAT?*** A Multi Academy Trust is a group of two or more schools working in a formal legal partnership as an Academy Trust with a shared ethos and some common practices and procedures.

Why change?

- There is an increased momentum nationally for schools to become academies, especially since the publication of the Schools White Paper in 2022.
- Local Authority education services are diminishing.
- Staying as a Local Authority Maintained school is a long-term option.
- It is the best route to drive further school improvement.
- Staying in control of the school's destiny and choose our partner so we can maintain our ethos – 'Learn, Believe, Achieve Together'.
- It will be better for our children, staff and community.

31 st March	Stakeholder consultation commences
20 th April 3.45pm	Information meeting for staff Meeting with Jon Peck – CEO Maiden Erlegh Trust and Andy Johnson – Executive Director of Education
20 th April 5:00pm	Information meeting for parents Open to all parents/carers to learn more about Maiden Erlegh Trust and ask any questions you have
28 th April	Close stakeholder consultations
May	Governing Body committee to review consultation feedback and make final decision

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE IF WE DECIDE TO PROCEED

End May 2023	Proposal to convert and join Maiden Erlegh Trust to be reviewed by the DfE
Early June 2023	DfE issue Academy Order
June/July 2023	TUPE consultation with staff
June – September 2023	Legal work to support transfer of land, buildings, staff and contracts to the Trust
1 October 2023	Birch Hill Primary School formally joins Maiden Erlegh Trust

Why Maiden Erlegh Trust?

- They are medium-sized Trust with 6 schools plus a further two new schools which will open over the next few years.
- They run Great Hollands Primary School plus have three secondary schools, one special school and an alternative provision school.
- They serve the communities of Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, and South Oxfordshire.
- We share the same vision and values: Opportunity, Diversity and Success for All.

For more information visit our website: www.maidenerleghtrust.org

