
 <p>EQUA Multi Academy Trust Every Child, Every Chance</p>	 <p>The Mead ACADEMY TRUST Inspirational Learning For All</p>
<p>Every Child, Every Chance</p>	<p>Children only get one chance to experience childhood and they have an absolute right to the highest quality of education</p>

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update about The Equa Multi Academy Trust and The Mead Trust.

Following a series of meetings involving Paul Skipp (CEO of Equa MAT), Lyssy Bolton (CEO of The Mead Trust) and both Trust Boards, there has been an agreement in principle to explore a potential merger of the two trusts.

We believe that there is considerable synergy between our Trusts, as well as different areas of expertise and excellence within both organisations. Our organisations provide a high standard of education to our pupils, and have a common set of values based upon the importance of our communities and the ambition to do our very best for all children and young people in our care. We share a strong common ethos and a belief in purposeful collaboration, centred around a ‘family of schools’ that work together ethically with a generosity of spirit on behalf of all children and young people.

There is a united belief that combining these two successful trusts together as one would create an exciting and dynamic organisation for our existing children and staff, and other schools that may choose to join in the future.

The Mead Trust is inclusive, passionate and principled, providing inspirational learning for all. The Trust consists of 3 primary schools split over 4 sites, including four nurseries and two Complex Needs Resource Bases.

Equa Multi Academy Trust consists of 2 secondary schools, 7 primary schools and 2 nursery provisions, with a secondary Resource Base opening in September. The Trust believes every child has the right to a great education and seeks to improve the life chances of all those it serves.

Equa MAT and The Mead Trust have a similar strategic ambition to grow, recognising the benefits for all members of the community that come with being part of a larger organisation. A combined Trust would employ a total of 605 staff and provide learning for 4,200 children and young people. Joining together would afford even greater capacity to shape developments, drive highly effective school improvement and deliver the best possible outcomes and opportunities for children.

Together, we would support staff with enhanced opportunities for professional development and career progression, to ensure all members of the team feel nurtured, supported and empowered within their school communities.

Discussions between Equa MAT and The Mead Trust are at an early stage and in due course there will be a consultation open to all stakeholders. If it is agreed that the trusts will merge, this will be followed by the submission of a full business case. Any decision made by the two Trust Boards will also be subject to approval by the DfE.

We are excited about the potential of joining forces to combine our strengths, resources and expertise for the benefit of the children. We have coordinated issuing this joint statement to ensure you are all aware of discussions at this early stage. We look forward to sharing more details in the future, as we work through considerations together. Communications will be shared with parents and the wider community in due course.

Written and produced jointly between Equa Multi Academy Trust and The Mead Academy Trust