



Thursday, 23 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you on behalf of Avonreach Multi Academy Trust and The Villages' Multi Academy Trust to inform you of our intention to merge our organisations into one from 1st September 2026.

In recent years, the growth of MATs has been a prominent feature of education policy. Voluntary mergers between MATs have been one avenue for growth and have become more prevalent. The schools white paper sets out the government's vision for the future school system, stating that all schools should be part of a high-quality MAT.

Merging is a proactive and considered move to facilitate greater success and a better future for our organisations and the schools within them. It represents a positive step to realise our organisations' visions and long-term sustainability, creating a combined trust with a single distinct identity, strategy, ethos, culture and values.

Both trusts have been working collaboratively for over a year now and all our schools have benefitted; it is clear that we share the same values.

While there is no statutory obligation to carry out a consultation, we believe it is important for our stakeholders to have a voice in this process.

What will this mean for our schools?

- For the children and young people in our schools, there will be no obvious change
- Each school will retain its unique identity
- For staff, the merger provides greater opportunities for collaboration and development that impacts positively on pupil outcomes
- For the combined trust, it increases the opportunities to work more sustainably, offering individual schools greater and more effective support from within the organisation, ultimately improving the outcomes for all children and young people.

We welcome any comments that you may have regarding this proposal by Friday 15th May.

Please email either:

merger@avonreach.org (Avonreach Academy Trust parents and carers)

merger@villagestrust.co.uk (The Villages' Trust parents and carers)

Thank you for your on-going support during this exciting time for both our organisations.

With best wishes,

Andrew Longdon

Marcus Rea

Avonreach Chair of Trustees

The Villages' Chair of Trustees

www.avonreach.org

www.villagestrust.co.uk