



Inspira Academy Trust-Merger with Turner Schools

Stakeholder Engagement

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The Inspira Journey.....

- Inspira Trust established April 2021-DFE approved
- Secured strong collaboration for Chartham Primary and St Stephen's Infant School following several years of executive leadership arrangements and economies of scale
- Small central team developed
- Approved growth plan-requirement for multi-academy trusts

Rationale for merger with another multi academy trust

Following the Schools Bill (2022), the DfE is pushing for all schools to become part of multi academy trusts because the evidence suggests that when schools work formally together there are significant benefits for pupils, staff and the wider school community.

As part of the strategic plan we are looking to develop wider partnerships beyond our current schools and to provide capacity for school improvement services.

The DfE have been clear that growth for Inspira is not possible on its own and that merger is the only option.

The Trustees want to act now to secure the long term future of the schools both for pupils and for financial stability.



Why Turner Schools?

After careful consideration and in alignment with our long-term strategic vision, the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to pursue a merger with another Multi Academy Trust (The Turner Schools Trust based in Folkestone). Vision and values align.

Turner has a strong track record of supporting schools to improve the provision for the children they serve. The Trust is able to create, through economies of scale and effective management, additional resources to support schools. This includes access to the trust capital funding, IT provision and support for pupil premium funding.

Inspira would benefit from being part of a larger group that can support significant projects across the communities they serve. Our strong staff team will contribute to a developing school improvement model.

Turner's growth plan sets out an aspiration for the trust to grow to 12- 15 schools by 2025. The trust is committed to working in East Kent and has a well-established hub in Folkestone of two secondary schools and three primary schools.

A Dover secondary school joined Turner in September 2023 and will be the focal point of a new Turner School Dover hub. The Trust has an aspiration to develop further hubs in Canterbury and other districts.

A merger with Inspira, would set the foundations for a strong hub in the Canterbury district and will support Turner in developing a new approach to growth, with capacity from within Inspira.

We believe this decision will strengthen our collective impact and position the Trust for continued success.



Timescales for Merger with Turner Schools

October-November 2023-merger application submitted and approved by the DFE

December 2023-January 2024-Due Diligence process

April 2024- TUPE process commences for staff and alignment arrangements

June-July 2024-Local governance arrangements finalised

End of August 2024-Completion of legalities, common transfer and funding agreements.

1st September 2024-Merger completed