



Consultation about whether Oak Farm Primary School should become an academy as part of Vanguard Learning Trust

The Governing Body of Oak Farm Primary School (Oak Farm) is consulting about whether the school should become an academy as part of the Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT) (which includes Hermitage Primary, Field End Junior, Ruislip High, Ryefield Primary, and Vyners schools).

The consultation runs until **Friday 28th November** – please have your say.

If the proposal is taken forward it is anticipated that Oak Farm Primary School would become an academy on 1 April 2026.

The rationale for the proposal

Oak Farm has been an Associate Member of Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT) since spring term 2023. Our staff and leaders have benefited from working with VLT colleagues across a range of areas, including curriculum, inclusion, leadership, finance and operations. Our time as an Associate Member has demonstrated that we share values, culture and expectations with VLT. The Governing Body believes that joining VLT offers the most secure way to sustainably improve the school.

VLT is a local multi academy trust. It includes three primary-phase schools and two secondary schools, all in Hillingdon. Oak Farm Governors are attracted to being part of a local trust and to being part of a growing group of collaborating schools.

Joining VLT is part of our strategic approach to securing a very positive judgement at our next Ofsted inspection. VLT schools are consistently successful in achieving strong pupil progress and outcomes which has been reflected in Ofsted recognition – all schools were judged to be ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ at their most recent inspection.

What would happen if Oak Farm Primary School does join VLT?

If Oak Farm does convert and join VLT, Oak Farm would:

- Keep the name ‘Oak Farm Primary School’;
- Keep the same school uniform;
- Keep the same school day, and the school year would continue to be set within the context of other local schools;
- Keep the same Published Admission Number and over-subscription for entry into Reception;
- Keep the same staff;
- Benefit from consistency of educational principles and approach for our pupils from aged 3-18;
- Benefit from increased opportunities for our pupils through collaboration with the other VLT schools; and
- Benefit from increased opportunities for staff to liaise and collaborate with colleagues across VLT on curriculum development (including specialist subjects), leadership development, and business support services.

About Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT)

VLT was formed when Ryefield Primary joined the trust that was originally established by Vyners School. Ruislip High joined in September 2018, and Hermitage and Field End Junior joined in 2021.

The Board of Trustees of VLT is responsible for all the schools within the Trust. Local Governing Bodies provide local governance, and support and challenge to the Headteacher and leadership team, and include parents and staff. The current Oak Farm governing body would evolve into being the Local Governing Body within VLT.

What is an academy?

An academy is an independent state school, funded directly from central government. When a Council maintained school becomes an academy they gain some additional freedoms and responsibilities (such as regarding employment terms and conditions).

There is a more detailed Question and Answer document that includes additional information about the differences between a foundation school (as Oak Farm is currently) and an academy. This is available on the school website (www.oakfarmprimary.org.uk) or from the school office (01895 590375).

How can I have my say?

You can have your say by completing the online questionnaire that is accessible [here](#) or by writing to the Headteacher at the school postal address (Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon, UB10 9PD).

Consultation meetings have been arranged for staff and parents and carers.

The consultation closes on Friday 28th November. Please share your views before then.

What happens next?

The Governing Body will consider all responses to the consultation before they make a decision about whether to become an academy and join VLT, and the VLT Board of Trustees would also make their final decision.

If the proposal proceeds, it is anticipated that Oak Farm would become an academy and join VLT on 1st April 2026. If the proposal does not proceed, Oak Farm would remain a foundation school within LB Hillingdon.