

# Swanland Education Trust

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[www.swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk](http://www.swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk)

Mr Chris Huscroft  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parent or Carer of children attending a Swanland Education Trust School

Many of you will be aware that our schools, Swanland Primary School and Dunswell Academy, are operated by a Multi-Academy Trust and charity called “Swanland Education Trust” (SET). A Multi-Academy Trust can operate more than one academy (i.e. school).

## Potential Expansion of Swanland Education Trust’s Community of Schools

Over the past few months, the Board of Directors of SET and I have been working with the Department for Education (DfE) on a proposed growth plan strategy for Swanland Education Trust. This is in alignment with government policy that all schools will become academies as part of a Multi-Academy Trust. However, the focus for the Board of Directors of Swanland Education Trust and I is how this strategy could build upon Swanland Education Trust’s strong partnerships by bringing together a like-minded community of schools to benefit staff and pupils of our existing schools and any new schools that join Swanland Education Trust through shared experience, expertise and resources.

As you will no doubt be aware, for the East Riding of Yorkshire, being a rural Local Authority (LA), the make-up of the schools is more diverse than some neighbouring LAs. Currently, Swanland Education Trust does not operate any faith schools that have links to a particular religious organisation (for example, the Church of England). As a result of talking with a number of different schools, some of which are faith schools aligned to the Church of England, it became clear that there is potential for Church of England schools to join Swanland Education Trust.

## Hook Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hook Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Goole, East Yorkshire (Hook C of E Primary School) is very interested in joining Swanland Education Trust’s community of schools. Hook C of E Primary School has been designated with a Church of England character. The School has an outstanding reputation, holding the highest judgement with Ofsted in all its inspections. The curriculum delivery and ethos of the school is recognised as being highly unique and as such has attracted much attention over the years. The School has

supported a number of other schools in redeveloping their curriculum to make improvements for children. Staff have delivered training, both nationally and internationally. Hook C of E Primary School will bring an immense wealth of knowledge to SET, further improving the chances and experiences for all children within the Trust.

### Airmyn Park Primary School

Airmyn Park Primary School in Airmyn, East Yorkshire is also very interested in joining Swanland Education Trust's community of schools. Airmyn, like Swanland Primary School and Dunswell Academy, is not linked to the Church of England or any other religious organisation (e.g. it does not have a designated religious character). However religious education is, of course, provided to pupils of all the schools (whether designated with a religious character or not) in accordance with the National Curriculum. Like Hook C of E Primary School, Airmyn has a strong reputation for providing its children with high quality education. Owing to the size of Airmyn (Published Admission Number 112) the school has developed a curriculum to support mixed age classes. This knowledge and expertise will be invaluable within the Trust as it will allow for staff to work closely in developing bespoke curriculum packages.

Both Hook C of E Primary School and Airmyn Park Primary School have already worked closely with staff and children from SET schools. I feel this will only further strengthen the relationship and opportunities for our children to work together.

### What this would mean for the Schools

As you are a stakeholder within this organisation, you are now invited to participate in a consultation about the proposed change to our constitution. Below, I have detailed what this will mean.

#### **1. Potential amendments to constitution**

The DfE would require Swanland Education Trust to amend its legal constitution (known as "Articles of Association") before it could operate Church of England schools such as Hook C of E Primary School.

The DfE and The Charity Commission have approved model Articles of Association that are suitable for Multi-Academy Trusts that operate schools that have been designated with a Church of England character *and* schools that are not designated with a Church of England character. The model Articles of Association are designed to preserve and safeguard the individual ethos and character of the schools so that they retain their unique identity.

## 2. Preservation of ethos of existing schools

Swanland Education Trust's Articles of Association include a statement of its educational aims for the benefit of all of its pupils and the local community. If a decision was taken for Hook C of E Primary School to join Swanland Education Trust then it would be required by the DfE and The Charity Commission to amend its Articles of Association in line with the DfE model for Multi-Academy Trusts that operate schools designated with a Church of England character *and* schools that are not designated with a Church of England character. This would ensure that the Church of England character continued to be protected and preserved for Hook C of E Primary School, but also that the same non-designated Church of England ethos would continue to apply to schools that are already operated by Swanland Education Trust (Swanland Primary School and Dunswell Academy) and, if a decision was taken for it to join Swanland Education Trust, Airmyn Park Primary School.

In practice there would be no noticeable change in the way in which the school is operated, its ethos or the school's curriculum. As has already been mentioned in this letter, along with the Trustees, I believe that this will only enhance the opportunities for all children within the Trust.

As more schools join our Trust, this will continue to be the case. Models of best practice will be shared across the Trust, enabling staff, children and parents to benefit from being a member of SET.

## 3. Members and Trustees

The Members Board would have representation from the Diocese of Sheffield.

The Diocese would be able to appoint up to 2 people to the Board of Trustees.

We therefore invite you to make comments on the proposed changes to the constitution of SET. During the consultation period, which will end on Friday 24th November 2017 at 4pm, should there be any comments made, these will be made available for all stakeholders to view, on the Trust's website, [www.swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk](http://www.swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk).

Thank you for your continuing support, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely



Chris Huscroft

CEO