



Our ref: DSN/KPA

4 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposed Merger Application – Approved by the Department for Education

Further to my letter of 5 June 2025, I write with an update on the proposed merger between Maltby Learning Trust and Accord Multi Academy Trust.

I am delighted to confirm that the Department for Education (DfE) has, at its recent Advisory Board approved the application from Maltby Learning Trust and Accord Multi Academy Trust to merge, creating a larger Trust with a new name and identity of **Place Partnership Trust**.

Maltby Learning Trust and Accord are well established Trusts who will now seek to create a combined family of 12 Academies committed to '**uniting our communities to provide exceptional experiences and achieve success**'.

The merger represents a strategic alliance that will bring together the strengths, resources and shared values of both Trusts to enhance the educational entitlement for all children, offer greater expertise across schools, and improve long-term sustainability for staff, students, and communities.

It is a voluntary merger of equals, rather than any form of takeover/acquisition of one Trust by the other. The merger will be a true partnership, with two existing organisations coming together as the new Trust, with a co-created vision and mission that prioritises:

- **Place:** Serving and responding to the needs of our communities, working in partnership with a range of stakeholders to support growth, regeneration, and transformation.
- **People:** Investing in people as our most important resource, aligned with our vision for children and our communities.
- **Purpose:** Providing exceptional experiences for all young people that go beyond the classroom, delivering outcomes and opportunities that secure pathways to success, particularly for our most vulnerable children.

Each Academy will retain its unique identity whilst benefiting from increased collaboration, shared services, and broader expertise. This is not only a strategic move for both Trusts but also a response to national policy direction encouraging Multi Academy Trust (MAT) consolidation to strengthen the education sector.

We strongly believe that both Trusts are rooted in their local communities and that our staff teams are central to our respective success. This merger opens up exciting opportunities for professional growth, innovation, and the continued improvement of the quality of education we provide to ensure the very best for our young people.

During the consultation on the proposals across a range of stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community partners, our proposed application to the DfE Advisory Board for the Yorkshire & Humber region received strong support, particularly from Rotherham, Doncaster and Wakefield Local Authorities.

We will now turn our attention to working together with Accord in the months ahead leading up to the proposed point of the merger itself to finalise all the necessary due diligence and to complete the legal processes required to form the new Trust. At this stage, the merger is anticipated to take effect from 1 September 2026.

I hope this news is received positively across all stakeholder groups and I will share any further updates in the coming months as the process progresses.

For more information and ongoing updates about the proposed merger, please visit the Trust website at [Maltby Learning Trust - Proposed Trust Merger](#).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sutton'.

Mr D Sutton
Chief Executive Officer