

Joining Danes Educational Trust Consultation - Summary for Stakeholders

The consultation asked for views from stakeholders on this proposal during the period 8 May to 12 June 2018. Consultation responses were received online, in correspondence and at a public meeting held on 23 May.

The following summarises the main topics raised and the Governors' views on those topics. Of the 35 responses made online or in writing, 63% were in favour of joining the Trust, 20% were against and 17% were don't know.

1. **Pupil Outcomes** – moving into the Trust is likely to improve our already excellent pupil outcomes for the reasons mentioned below.
2. **Implications for staff** – these are considered to be positive due to CWP's membership of a wider, but closely – linked group of schools: greater career opportunities should make recruitment and retention easier; and career development, training and specialist support will be more closely tailored to the each Trust school and should also be more cost-effective.
3. **Funding of CWP** – funding is determined per school by the government based on pupil numbers. This will not change. There will no longer be a deduction made by the LEA, but a similar, currently smaller, deduction will instead be made by the Trust for its central services, which are, and likely to remain, more efficient.
4. **Admissions to Secondary Schools** – the existing arrangements would continue to apply unless and until changed through due process and consultation.
5. **Key Stage 2/3 Transition** – this will be improved both inside the Trust (and for other schools) because of the closer working across the Stages within the same organisation. Staff will gain an increased understanding of pupils' attainments and needs, and the expectations which can be placed on them.
6. **Trust Early Joiner Issues** – any advantage which might be gained by joining a longer – established, expanded Trust at a later stage are likely to be outweighed by the advantage of being able to shape the organisation from an early stage. Education is a dynamic environment and there is a need to take fully considered advantage of opportunities which arise. We will seek to secure the continuation of the teaching and governance features which give CWP its distinctive, supportive ethos in the new organisation.
7. **Trust developments** – there is inevitably a degree of uncertainty as to the future size and geographic scope of the Trust as it is in its initial stages; however, we are reassured that these issues have been carefully considered by the Trust, which will not wish to overreach or take any steps to undermine its high quality pupil excellence aspirations.
8. **Implications of not joining the Trust** – school funding has been, and continues to be under pressure; in particular, recruiting and retaining high quality staff is challenging. The Trust's advantages in this area will be positive for staff and, of course, therefore good for pupils.