

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the announcement of the proposal to amalgamate Robinswood and Moat Primary Academies, and the recent consultation meetings held last week, I would like to express my thanks to you for sharing your thoughts and raising valuable questions either at the meeting or directly with the leaders at each school. Your contributions and questions are an important part of the consultation process and will be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Greenshaw Learning and the Department for Education.

It is clear from the questions raised that there are concerns around what the provision will look like if the two schools come together on one site. All of the questions that have been shared with us have been reviewed together and included in a question and answer document that will be shared with all parents. We hope that this will help to reassure you that we have carefully considered the points raised and that the responses clarify the concerns that were shared.

During the meetings and from questions raised at other times, it is clear that there are two areas for which it would be helpful to provide specific clarification..

- **Admissions arrangements:**

- It is a DfE requirement, in cases such as this one, that parents/guardians of **all pupils currently attending Moat Primary Academy** will need to apply for a place for their child(ren) at Robinswood if they would like them to attend that school. This is to allow parents the option to apply for a place at another school if they would prefer to do so. Parents at Robinswood do not need to reapply for their child's school place.
- There will be a place at Robinswood Primary for **all** children at Moat Primary if parents choose to apply for a place. Support with the admissions arrangements will be offered to any parents if it is requested (for applications to Robinswood or other schools if this is the parental choice).
- More details about the application process will be shared if the proposal is agreed by Trustees and the Department for Education. We anticipate that this will be by February 2025.
- Applications for places at Robinswood (or other schools) do NOT need to be made by January 15th 2025. This deadline is for applications for places in Reception classes for September 2025. If any parents at Moat have younger children who will be starting Reception in September 2025, please contact the Greenshaw Learning Trust admissions team. Contact details are as follows:

Email: admissionconsultations@greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk

Telephone: 0333 037 1279

- **Support for pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN):**

- Many parents voiced concerns about the impact that an amalgamation of the two schools would have on the level of support that would be given to pupils with Special Educational Needs. We are very confident that the leaders and staff at both Moat and Robinswood work very hard to provide excellent provision and support for pupils with special educational needs and we will ensure that this continues should the schools amalgamate. This is a key priority for both schools now, and will remain a key priority should the two schools amalgamate.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision will be maintained and enhanced. The larger school will have more resources and specialised staff to support SEND students. We will be looking very carefully at the level of staffing required to support all pupils as we are in full agreement that this needs to be considered to ensure that pupils continue to receive the support that they currently receive.
- There will be many opportunities for the Special Needs coordinators in each school to work together ahead of the amalgamation (if it is approved) to ensure that all pupils' needs are considered and planned for, before the two schools come together. Both schools use the same processes and ways of working which will enable the staff to support a smooth transition.

We recognise that the importance of ongoing involvement of staff, parents and pupils will be key to ensuring the success of the future education of all pupils in Matson. To support this, we will be:

- Sending regular updates to parents about progress and next steps
- Holding regular 'drop-in' sessions for parents so that we can continue to listen to concerns and seek parental views
- Involving pupils to gain their views on what they would like to see in their 'new school'
- Organising opportunities for parents to visit the Robinswood site and to attend joint events
- Organising regular opportunities for pupils in both schools to take part in joint activities
- Considering changing the name and uniform of the 'new' school (at no initial cost to parents) as a result of feedback from parents and staff.

The consultation period closes on 6th December. We are aware that some people were not able to attend the meetings last week and we would welcome any further questions or comments that you have; these can be sent to the Headteachers of each school using the following email addresses:

admin@moatprimary.co.uk

admin@robinswoodprimary.co.uk

Yours faithfully

William Smith

CEO, The Greenshaw Learning Trust