

28 January 2026

Dear Members of Our Local Community,

Milford School has long been proud to be part of this community. We are writing to share some important news and, most importantly, to invite your views.

A proposal to become an academy

The Governing Body of Milford School is currently exploring the possibility of converting to academy status as part of LEO Academy Trust. We hope to make a final decision in the second half of 2026, with the aim of joining LEO Academy Trust in September 2026 for the start of the 2026–27 school year. However, this is a complex process and not entirely within our control, so these dates may change.

We believe it's important to involve our local community in this decision and would like to explain this proposal and how you can share your thoughts before we move forward.

What does becoming an academy mean?

An academy is a state-funded school that is independent of the local authority and funded directly by central government. This can give schools greater flexibility in how they operate, while remaining firmly within the state education system.

We are considering joining LEO Academy Trust, a well-established trust formed in 2015. LEO Academy Trust currently supports over 5,000 pupils across 12 primary schools in the London Borough of Sutton and Surrey. Two other schools, alongside Milford, have also applied to join LEO.

Why are we considering this?

Our motivation is simple; to ensure that Milford School continues to thrive for the benefit of the children and families it serves, now and in the future. We believe that joining LEO Academy Trust could bring a number of positive opportunities, including:

- **Stronger professional support** - giving the headteacher and staff access to shared expertise and allowing more time to focus on teaching, learning and leadership.
- **Potential financial benefits** - enabling further investment in resources, facilities and opportunities for our pupils.
- **Greater curriculum flexibility** - helping us to enhance learning experiences and extracurricular opportunities, some of which may also benefit the wider community.

Information about LEO Academy Trust can be found on its website - <https://www.leoacademytrust.co.uk/>

What would stay the same?

We know that change can feel uncertain, so we want to reassure you that Milford's ethos, values and commitment to its children and community will remain at the heart of everything we do. We do not anticipate significant changes to the day-to-day life of the school.

How can you share your views?

Your voice matters to us. We warmly invite you to take part in this consultation by:

- Attending an online community meeting on Friday 27th February at 11am. Please use this [link](#) to register and you will receive an invitation that you can use to access the meeting.

- Sharing your thoughts in writing by emailing: matconsultation@milford.surrey.sch.uk

The consultation period runs **from today until 6th March 2026**. All feedback will be carefully considered by the governing body before any final decision is made.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued interest in Milford School. We value our close ties with the local community and welcome your thoughts as we consider the best path forward for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Darragh Jones
Chair of Governors

Sara Cox
Headteacher