



South York  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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14th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Application to act as an Academy Sponsor**

I write to give details of the South York Multi-Academy Trust's intention to apply to act as an academy sponsor. If successful, this would involve the Trust working with the Department of Education to identify and agree schools that the Trust would accept into our Multi-Academy Trust. This course of action was part of the original growth plan identified for the Trust at its establishment and it underpins the desires of our schools and their leaders to help improve the quality and provision of education in the local area.

School sponsorship involves the DfE approaching the Trust with potential schools to sponsor where they believe the Trust has the capacity and experience to drive their improvement. Any schools taken into the Trust must be agreed to and formally endorsed by the Trust Board and Trust Members. There is no compulsion on the Board to accept any school offered by the DfE and the Trust Board are clear that any school accepted must meet the following requirements:

- That any school accepted must align with the values and ethos of the Trust.
- That the Trust has the capacity to secure rapid improvement in any school accepted without this being to the detriment of the existing Trust schools.
- That any school accepted is within a geographical area close to our existing schools.

In seeking sponsor status, the Trust and its School leaders believe that this course of action offers us a real opportunity to contribute to the improvement of the school system by providing CPD and career development opportunities within the Trust, in addition to providing help to schools in need.

Given our current Trust schools either have OFSTED rankings of good or outstanding, there is a clear expectation for our schools to seek to act to support and improve other providers. This is a longstanding requirement for any school seeking to gain or retain an outstanding OFSTED rating. There is also a strong record of effective School to School support being provided by several schools within the Trust that makes us well equipped to undertake the sponsor role.

Our application to act as a sponsor will be submitted for approval by the Regional Schools Commissioner's Headteacher Board which will scrutinise our proposal before reaching its decision. We will inform you of the outcome of this process once we have this information. Should you have any queries or comments you wish to submit in the meantime then please address these to Mrs Esta Ismail at the main office at Fulford School by Friday 31st January 2020.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'I. Warman', written in black ink.

Mr Ian Warman  
Chair of the Board of Trustees