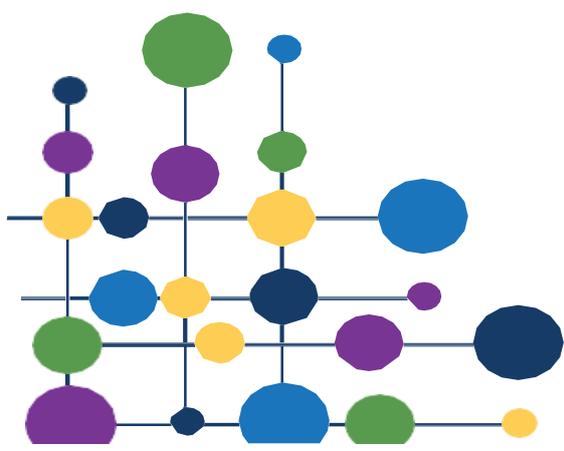




# 'De-amalgamating' Royds Hall Community School, Beech Primary School and Luck Lane Primary School

Proposals for Consultation

October 2019



## Background Information

Officially, Royds Hall Community School, Beech Primary School and Luck Lane Primary School are a single institution, known as a 'through school'. This means that official bodies, such as the Department for Education and OFSTED, only recognise it as one school, Royds Hall Community School, under one headteacher. Our proposal is to ask the Department for Education to recognise the three sites as three separate schools, each with its own headteacher - a process known as 'de-amalgamation'.

Royds Hall Community School, was inspected by OFSTED in September 2017 and deemed to be inadequate. Inspectors noted "The considerable challenge of merging a primary school, on a separate site, as well as building a new primary school, have affected the overall performance of the school."

In November 2018, Royds Hall Community School opened as a new academy, as a member of SHARE multi-academy trust. Since then, leaders at SHARE have changed the way the three schools are organised, so that each site has its own head of school, teachers and teaching assistants. The early signs are promising – many parents have commented on the improvements in behaviour and teaching, which is also reflected in a significant rise in the number of children reaching the expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2.

## What are the advantages of de-amalgamation?

### Better learning and behaviour

We think children behave better and learn better in stable environments. Our proposals mean our younger children in particular will benefit from having the same teachers and one headteacher on site.

### Better for teachers and teaching assistants

Working with the same class or group of pupils helps teachers to know children's strengths and weaknesses better, helping them to support learning for each child in a way that suits them best.

### Better for parents

Experience suggests parents like to know who is in charge of their child's school. Our proposals mean there will be a named headteacher in each school. This will also help the headteacher to get to know parents better, so they can work together for the benefit of the children.

The admissions process will also be clearer. At present, parents wishing to apply for a place at Beech Primary School need to know to apply for Royds Hall Community School. Separating the schools will make the applications process much simpler for parents.

### Fairer funding

Under current funding rules, every school is entitled to a 'block' grant, currently worth about £120,000 per year. The three schools are sharing one block grant and are therefore missing out on important funding that could be used for extra staff or equipment.

## Strong partnerships

Our proposals will not mean the three schools stop working together. Each school will be part of SHARE multi-academy trust, who employ all the staff and provide additional support for leaders, including staff training and development. One of the other advantages of working in a multi-academy trust is that schools gain access to a wider range of specialist services, such as human resources advice, shared purchasing, premises management and other administration support. This helps school leaders focus on what really matters – providing the best possible education for our children and young people.

An Executive Headteacher will work across both primary schools (and a third local school, Cowlersley Primary School). This will further strengthen the relationships between leaders and help share good practice more easily.

## Partners with communities

Each school site serves a distinct community and we want our schools to be strong partners with other community groups. Each headteacher will be better placed to build these relationships.

## Other considerations

### Pupils with special educational needs

Pupils with special educational needs will be unaffected by the changes. Parents of children with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) will continue to be able to choose a school under the same arrangements as now.

### Equality Impact Assessment

Our proposals will not have any impact on pupils, parents or staff with a protected characteristic.

### Admissions Arrangements

Each school will need a separate admissions policy and pupils who attend Beech and Luck Lane will no longer be automatically enrolled at the secondary school. However, the Royds Hall admissions policy will give priority to pupils attending these schools and we are confident no child will miss out on a place.

The new admissions policies are available with this consultation paper. They have been written to reflect the current arrangements, using the same Local Authority Priority Admissions Areas as now. We will not seek to destabilise current arrangements in any way.

### Curriculum

Our schools will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, fully in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

### Facilities and infrastructure

Our schools are already operating on separate sites and further changes to the buildings or other resources will not be required.

## Further Information

The consultation period will run from 14<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and public meetings will be held at each school (site) as follows:

Royds Hall Academy: 12<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm

Luck Lane Academy: 4<sup>th</sup> November at 4.30pm and 8<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am

Beech Primary Academy: 4<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm

Parents and other interested parties are welcome to attend any of the meetings, to ask questions and learn more about our proposals.

We will post updates on the consultation on our trust website from time to time:

Website address: [www.sharemat.org](http://www.sharemat.org)

We will also post any answers to frequently asked questions at this address.

## Submitting your views

Feedback must be given in writing and signed, to ensure we treat all views equally and fairly. Please respond by Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December and address your letter to:

Mrs J Newson  
SHARE Multi-Academy Trust  
c/o Shelley College  
Huddersfield Road  
Shelley  
Huddersfield  
HD8 8NL

or you can e-mail your views to: [info@sharemat.org](mailto:info@sharemat.org)

It would be helpful if written comments are placed in an envelope marked 'de-amalgamation response' or if this could be included in the title of any e-mails.

## Privacy Notice

Names and addresses will be used to confirm we have received separate responses and to respond to any queries that may be raised in writing. We will never share this information with other parties or outside the staff within SHARE who need to see your comments.

We will need to keep responses on record for 12 months from the consultation closing date, to confirm to the Department for Education that a proper consultation process has been undertaken. After this period, any records will be destroyed.