



NEWHAM COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS TRUST

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS
REGARDING**

**LISTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
ROKEBY SCHOOL**

FAQs

NOVEMBER 2018

1. Where can I get details of the consultation, and how can I respond?

A consultation was launched by Lister Community School and Rokeby School on 1st November to consult on their proposals to federate and become “trust schools”.

Details can be found here for [Lister](#) and [Rokeby](#).

Responses are invited and you should email consultation@lister.newham.sch.uk by 5pm on Friday 14th December 2018.

2. Will the Schools still be part of the London Borough of Newham?

As “maintained” schools, the Schools will still be the responsibility of the London Borough of Newham, who will oversee the Schools; provide funding; commission services and support and intervene if standards fall or there is financial mismanagement.

The Schools’ commitment to their communities remains unchanged. They see these proposals as a way to reinforce and enhance the commitment they have made to each other and to Sarah Bonnell School to expand on the work they do together. This is borne out of a belief that close collaboration with other like-minded schools will help the Schools to become genuinely great schools, and to provide the best possible opportunities for students and staff.

3. Will the LA continue to fund the Schools?

The Schools will continue to receive funding from Newham. As high performing schools, the Schools have a right to receive a delegated budget, from which they must meet their liabilities. This includes paying staff salaries, meeting their contractual commitments and safeguarding obligations and continuing to pay to Newham the agreed contribution to the cost of the PFI.

4. What will be the impact on the Schools’ budgets?

No impact is envisaged and the Schools will continue to set their budgets in accordance with the Newham Scheme for Financing Schools.

5. Will Sarah Bonnell School be responsible for Lister and Rokeby School and vice versa?

Each School will retain its own distinctiveness, governance, staffing and budget. Sarah Bonnell School will have no legal responsibility for Lister and Rokeby (and vice versa), though as partner schools working together as part of the Newham Community Schools Trust, it is expected that the Schools will continue to support each other to raise attainment and achievement.

6. Will the Schools have an executive headteacher?

No, each School will continue to have its own headteacher. Headteachers will retain the day to day responsibility for their individual Schools and will be accountable to their Local Governing Bodies.

7. What will happen to the Governing Bodies of Lister and Rokeby?

On the implementation date, the current governing bodies will be dissolved and a new governing body created which will have governance responsibility for all the schools in the federation. “Local Governing Bodies” will be established for each of the Schools which will have delegated responsibility to determine the strategic vision for the School, to oversee leadership and ensure

public money is well spent. Those Governors currently serving on the Governing Body of each School, will be invited to serve on the relevant Local Governing Body.

8. What does becoming a foundation school mean?

A foundation school is still a type of maintained school, but the Governing Body owns the freehold of the school site, employs staff and determines the School's admissions policy (complying with the Schools Admissions Code). Foundation schools can either operate with a foundation or without a foundation. Where there is a foundation, that foundation will own the school site on trust for the School. It can also appoint a majority of the Governors on the Governing Body. The Newham Community Schools Trust will be the foundation body for the federation of Lister and Rokeby Schools.

9. Can the foundation dispose of the schools site?

No, strict rules apply where land has been provided at public expense. Proposals for the disposal of school land must be approved by the Local Authority and the Secretary of State for Education. The Schools will continue to allow occasional lettings to community groups. These are currently controlled by the PFI contractor. It may be possible to achieve greater control of these going forward so that the Schools can fulfil their aspiration that these facilities are used by the whole community for the benefit of the community.

10. How will this affect my child?

The Schools believe that the greater opportunities for working together as a federation of schools will lead to benefits across three schools. There will be a pooling of some resources, better provision for SEN and alternative provision, shared expertise, increased professional development opportunities for staff, enhanced education provision, better community facilities and outreach and, opportunities for cost efficiencies. These benefits will help to secure the future of these Schools and to ensure that the very best education is being provided to students.

11. How will staff be affected?

Staff terms and conditions will automatically transfer to the new federation governing body. The national agreements and any local agreements negotiated by Newham Council will continue to apply.

12. Can other schools join the NCST Federation?

Yes. The Scheme of Delegation to be put in place by the new federated Governing Body will apply to any school in the federation, meaning there is parity between all the Schools for whom the Newham Community Schools Trust has responsibility. This includes schools who wish to continue as maintained schools and schools who wish to become academies.

13. If we don't go for this, do we have other options?

The Schools will continue to push forward their plans to be academies as part of the Newham Community Schools Trust. The Schools will continue to collaborate in the manner they have been doing for the past 3 years. It seems likely that the Government will continue to allow a mixed economy of schools for the foreseeable future, where some schools are academies and some schools remain as maintained schools. If however, that policy changes, these arrangements will help the Schools to adapt whilst at the same time fundamentally securing their collective vision and helping them to fulfil their mission of working together to provide the highest possible standard of education for all the students in the Schools.