

**26 January 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, the governing body of Compass Federation are proposing to explore conversion to an academy. We have approached the Department for Education to obtain an academy order, to gain permission to start this process.

In seeking to convert to an academy, our priority is to ensure we continue to provide a high-quality education for our pupils. We believe joining an academy trust will provide the freedom to make effective financial decisions, securing our future and driving improvement.

The Federation is proposing to join Medway Anglican Schools Trust (MAST) as part of its academisation process. Mr Hulme is the CEO of MAST and has been working with Compass and MAST since April 2025, ensuring that our schools continue to run as we have come to expect. If Compass joined MAST, Mr Hulme would remain in post as CEO over all schools. MAST is a Church-led multi-academy trust with a clear vision, a strong commitment to high standards, and a proven approach to collaboration and shared support. MAST is able to take on both Church and Community schools. Working closely with MAST, we have been developing a shared understanding of values, expectations, and ways of working. This period of engagement has provided confidence that the trust is well placed to support the Federation's continued improvement, sustainability, and distinct school identity.

I would like to reassure you that:

- the names of our schools, school uniforms, and day-to-day operations will remain unchanged
- all current staff will transfer to the new academy with their existing terms and conditions protected
- the high standards of education we provide will be maintained and further enhanced
- for our Church schools, Christian values and ethos will continue to be at the heart of everything we do
- Dunton Green Primary School will continue to be a community school without church distinctiveness

Before proceeding with the conversion, there will be a formal consultation in which we invite you to share your views and ask any questions you may have. Governors will carefully consider all responses received before making any final decision. There are a number of ways you can take part in this consultation:

### **What does the consultation involve?**

During the consultation, we will be communicating with children, staff, parents and carers (of current and future pupils), the local community and other stakeholders. The consultation period begins on **Monday 26th January 2026** and ends on **Friday 6th March 2026**.



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### **The Consultation Process**

There will be a number of opportunities for you to express your views about the proposed move to Academy status, as outlined below:

### **Public and Open Meetings**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (5.00 p.m.) – **St. Paul's Church of England Primary School**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (5.00 p.m.) – **Dunton Green Primary School**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (5.00 p.m.) – **St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School**

You are welcome to any, or all of, these open meetings; even if they your child doesn't attend that school.

To respond to this consultation on whether the conversion of the school to academy status should take place, representations can only be considered by governors if made in writing via this online form:

<https://forms.gle/GbTB5kEUkGE1wjgV8>

We'd like to invite you to read through our answers to FAQs about this consultation, which you can find on our website [www.compassfederation.com](http://www.compassfederation.com). We will be looking to regularly update this area of the Compass website with any further questions that have been asked, and their answers.

We recognise that a proposal of this nature may raise questions or concerns, and we are committed to being open and transparent throughout this process. The consultation period is an important opportunity for you to share your views, and governors will carefully consider all feedback received before making any final decision.

This is an exciting opportunity to help shape our future and to strengthen the way we run our schools, develop our character and values, and continue to secure the very best outcomes for our pupils. Please do not hesitate to contact me, as outlined above, if you have any comments or questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
**David Strachan**  
**Chair of Compass Federation**



**One Child**  
One Chance