

YESOIDAY HATORAH SCHOOL - MANCHESTER

(Jewish Day School)

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Consultation relating to the future of Yesoiday Hatorah School - 15th March 2018

This consultation document relates to the proposal for the single academy trust ("SAT"), which operates the existing co-educational academy known as Yesoiday Hatorah School, to become a multi-academy trust ("MAT") known as "Yesoiday Hatorah Multi-Academy Trust" with effect from 1st September 2018.

Background to the Proposal

The academy trust known as "Yesoiday Hatorah School" (company number 7573614) (the "Academy Trust") currently runs one co-educational academy also known as "Yesoiday Hatorah School" (URN 136661) (the "Academy"). The Academy Trust (as per Department for Education ("DfE") requirements) is established as a company limited by guarantee, with members and a board of trustees (the "Trustees") and the Academy Trust's constitution is set out in its articles of association ("Articles").

The funding arrangements for the Academy are set out in a funding agreement entered into by the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Academy Trust is currently a SAT and its existing Articles and funding agreement are based on the DfE model for a SAT relevant to the time that the Academy was established in April 2011.

The Academy is a consistently strong performing primary and the largest in Bury Local Authority. Results over the last two years, since the curriculum has changed, have been outstanding at all levels, Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Additionally, the Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) does not highlight any weaknesses in the school. The School was judged to be "outstanding" in Ofsted section 48 Kodesh Studies Inspection 2014 (standards of Jewish religious education) and "good" by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2014. All pupils, staff and parents are aware of our great purpose: to nurture pupils to become committed to, and ready to live, a life of Torah im Derech Eretz (to be successful in the wider world without compromising the attitudes and values enshrined in the Torah). The Trustees consider that the Proposal will help to secure the future of the provision of education based on these values.

It may also be necessary (subject to Department for Education approval, further consultation with all stakeholders and the trustees taking all necessary professional advice) for the existing co-educational academy to split into separate boys' and girls' academies following a recent court ruling on how co-educational schools should be run. The implications of this ruling are still being analysed and the trustees are taking all necessary legal advice and seeking guidance from the Department for Education. The trustees plan to consult on the above proposal and its implications in the near future.

Reasons for the Proposal to form a MAT

- The current number on role has outgrown a single academy trust with 746 school pupils recorded in the January 18 census.
- The demonstrated growth in the number on role of 40% over the past 4 years combined with projections by community organisation, based on an influx of families moving to the local area and the local birth rate; projects a further demand for places within the next 4 years taking the number of local state school places to 840 on the current site, with a longer term projection of 1050 pupil places.
- In the light of the above mentioned court ruling relating to how co-educational schools should be operated, and following consultation with the Department for Education, the Trustees wish to place the Academy on a more secure legal footing and to ensure compliance with Equalities legislation and having a multi academy trust will help support this.
- The trustees feel that a MAT would offer the opportunity to implement both shared expertise and individual management structures for any individual school of the MAT ensuring there are the correct arrangements in place for the increased capacity of the school for the next 4 years and beyond.

The Academy Trust wishes to consult with stakeholders and the board of trustees invites responses to the Proposal by no later than 30th April 2018.

Impact of the Proposal

The pupils would not experience any substantive difference to the way they are currently educated as a result of the Proposal.

The Academy Trust would remain the same company (albeit established as a MAT rather than as a SAT), with the same company number. The MAT will give the opportunity to grow and develop staff from within and create additional focused management structures for any Academies of the MAT, sharing best practice and resources.

The Proposal is not expected to have any adverse financial impact on the Academy Trust, and if the Proposal proceeds then Trustees will work with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to obtain further information on the expected levels of funding for any Academies of the MAT and before implementation a careful review of the financial implications will be carried out to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the level of provision.

Before the Trustees decide whether to implement the proposals, they will take into consideration the impact of the proposals with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. Trustees will be interested to hear the views of consultees on any relevant issues relating to impact of the proposals on those persons with protected characteristics under the legislation. Trustees will also have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a "relevant protected characteristic" and persons who do not, and in this regard views are sought from consultees on this issue.

The differences to our current arrangements would be as follows:

Articles and Company Name

- The constitution and name of the Academy Trust will be amended (although the Academy Trust will remain the same company with the same company number).
- The name of the Academy Trust will be amended from "Yesoiday Hatorah School" to "Yesoiday Hatorah Multi-Academy Trust".
- The Articles of the Academy Trust will be amended to new MAT Articles (based on the DfE model form appropriate for a MAT). The charitable purpose of the Academy Trust will remain the same. A copy of the DfE model MAT Articles and model funding documents can be located on the Academy Trust's website alongside this consultation document.

Governance Arrangements

- The company structure of the Academy Trust will essentially remain the same with a membership and a board of trustees. As a MAT though, the board of trustees will also be able to establish "Local Governing Bodies" relating to Academies in the MAT.
- Subject to the approval of the DfE, the proposed governance structure of the MAT will be:
 - Five members;
 - A board of trustees consisting of at least 9 trustees which would include 3 foundation appointed trustees;
 - Any Local Governing Body would include an appropriate number of parent governor, staff governors, trustees, the CEO and Head of School
- All Trustees of the existing Academy Trust would be given the opportunity to play a role within the MAT's new board of trustees and/or Local Governing Bodies.

Funding Agreement

- The existing funding agreement of the Academy Trust will be amended to reflect the establishment of the MAT.
- As per the Department for Education model funding documents for a MAT, there will be a master funding agreement relating to the funding of all academies operated by the MAT, and a supplemental funding agreement specific to each Academy. The funding documents will be based on the Department for Education model and a copy of this model MAT master funding agreement and mainstream supplemental funding agreement can be located on the Academy's website alongside this consultation document.

Education Provisions

- Pupils will not experience any substantive difference to the way they are currently educated as a result of the Proposal.
- Teachers and leaders will continue to have the highest expectations of their pupils.
- An Academy within the MAT will offer a broad and balanced curriculum which is designed to enable all pupils to be stretched and challenged in order to reach their potential.

Staffing

- The employer of staff will remain the same as the current employer of staff i.e. the Academy Trust.
- Staffing provision will remain the same but will change as and when specific needs arise, just as is currently the case.
- If the Proposal is approved by the Department for Education, further consultation with staff shall be undertaken by the Academy Trust prior to the implementation of the Proposal.

How do you respond to the consultation?

Those wishing to respond to the consultation should write to the board of trustees for the attention of the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Sills, via the Academy's address or via MATconsult@yhs.org.uk

The closing date for the receipt of any comments is 30th April 2018.

The documents referred to in this consultation document can be found at: <http://www.yhs.org.uk>

What happens next?

Following the closure of the consultation period, the Trustees will consider the results of the consultation and make a decision as to whether to proceed with the Proposal. If approved by the Trustees, the Proposal will then be submitted to the Department for Education for approval.

If approved by the Department for Education, it is proposed that the new MAT would be in effect from 1st September 2018.