



1st May 2026

Consultation on the planned merger of Elements Diocesan Learning Trust (Elements) and Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT)

Dear Families,

We hope you are well and that your family has had a good start to the summer term. We would like to share some information on an exciting proposal to explore the possible merger between Elements Diocesan Learning Trust and DoWMAT. As you will be aware, I have been leading Elements Trust as Interim CEO since the retirement of Sarah Riley as CEO in December 2025. This has been an immense privilege and positive experience for me as I get to know your children and the staff across Elements Trust and its five schools.

We believe the possible merger presents a really positive opportunity for our schools, children and communities. As Diocese Trusts we are both guided by the Church of England's vision for education and believe the proposed merger strengthens our commitment to nurturing spiritual, moral, social, and academic development. By coming together as two trusts, which will provide increased capacity and expertise, we strongly believe we can deliver even greater outcomes for our children and young people, staff and communities.

By increasing our collaboration and shared capabilities, we will be able to offer enhanced professional development opportunities to staff, through increased best practice and resource sharing and training, helping to retain and recruit high-quality staff. Similarly, we believe it will enhance our school improvement capability and will help us to drive further educational excellence in our classrooms, so we can deliver the very best possible education to children.

We also believe this merger would provide improved operational efficiencies as regards procurement, finance, and administration and enhance financial and longer term sustainability for both Trusts.

As the views and feedback of our school communities are hugely important to us, we have been hard at work developing a consultation through which you can express your views about the proposed merger. We are eager to hear your thoughts and perspectives as part of this process. The consultation will run from Friday 1st May to Monday 1st June 2026 and full details and documents are available on the Elements website at [Elements Diocesan Learning Trust - Merge Consultation](#) We encourage you to respond to the consultation and look forward to hearing your feedback.

To support this process, we will be hosting several forums and meetings about this. Meetings for parents are on the following days should you wish to attend:

Tuesday 12 th May St Mary's School -17:00-18:00
Wednesday 13 th May - Christ Church -17:00-18:00
Tuesday 19 th May - Pedmore School -17:00-18:00
Wednesday 20 th May - Church of the Ascension School -17:00-18:00
Thursday 21 st May - Jesson's School -17:00-18:00



If you would like to attend, please let the school office know so we can make appropriate seating and preparation arrangements — you can contact the school by phone, email, or by dropping into the office in person. If you are unable to attend at your own child's school but would like to join a session at another school on an alternative day, please contact your school office with details and we will arrange this for you.

We appreciate you may have questions and so we have therefore created an FAQ document via the website to answer any immediate questions you have. There is also a survey to capture your feedback; these can be found on the website [Elements Diocesan Learning Trust](#). However, should you have any further questions please do attend one of the sessions or reach out directly at mergerconsultation@dowmat.education so we can help.

We are excited about the proposed merge and potential it will deliver for children staff and the wider school community alike, and so we hope you too feel enthused about these plans. In the meantime, we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and collaboration as we explore this exciting opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Shelley".

Vicki Shelley
Interim CEO Elements
CEO DoWMAT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Reeson".

David Reeson
Elements Trust Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Stephens".

Chris Stephens
DoWMAT Trust Board Chair