



Consultation Letter to Parents/Carers

02.03.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exploring the possibility of Westmoor Primary School joining Centurion Multi-Academy Trust

The Governing Body of Westmoor Primary School, in close discussion with the Headteacher and senior leadership team, has been carefully considering how we can best secure a strong and sustainable future for our school, our pupils and our community.

As part of this work, governors have agreed to **explore the possibility of Westmoor Primary School joining Centurion Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)** and to begin a **formal period of consultation** with parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders.

Importantly, no final decision has been made.

We are writing to explain why this is being explored and to invite your views and questions.

About Westmoor Primary School

Westmoor Primary School is a successful, friendly and vibrant school. Our guiding ethos, *"Learning together through truth, opportunity and celebration"*, underpins everything we do. We are proud of our pupils, our staff, our strong community links and our positive partnership with parents and carers.

Governors are committed to ensuring that **Westmoor's values, identity and community-focused approach remain central** to any future decision.

Westmoor Primary School is not an LA-maintained community school. Over ten years ago, the Governing Body chose to become a Foundation Trust School as part of the North Tyneside Learning Trust (NLT). This means that although we remain legally maintained by the local authority, we operate with additional support, expertise and governance from NLT. At the point of making this decision, governors understood that becoming a Foundation Trust School was a significant long-term structural commitment, as the model involves changes to governance and the transfer of land and assets. Because of this existing structure, it is more straightforward for us to transition to a Multi-Academy Trust than it would be for a traditional LA-maintained community school.

Why are governors exploring joining a Multi-Academy Trust?

The education landscape is changing rapidly. Local authorities have increasingly limited capacity to provide the level of school improvement support, financial resilience and specialist expertise that schools may require in the future.

In response, the Governing Body believes it is responsible and prudent to **explore partnerships that could strengthen and protect the long-term success of the school**, while maintaining our ethos and standards.

The Government's new *Every Child Achieving and Thriving* White Paper, published in February 2026, sets out a long-term ambition for all schools to become part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). While there is no immediate requirement for schools to convert, the direction of travel is clear: ministers believe MATs provide stronger collaboration between schools, more consistent support for teaching and learning, and a more robust approach to school improvement. This national agenda forms the backdrop to our own exploration of joining a MAT, and we are consulting with parents, carers, staff and stakeholders to ensure our decision reflects the best long-term interests of our school community.

After careful consideration, governors feel that **Centurion Multi-Academy Trust** merits consultation.

Why Centurion Multi-Academy Trust?

Centurion Multi-Academy Trust is a **local primary-only trust**, formed in 2024, currently consisting of four schools within North Tyneside. The Trust was established by schools with a shared ambition to **pool expertise, collaborate deeply and improve outcomes for children and families**.

Centurion's vision strongly aligns with Westmoor's values. The Trust describes itself as:

- **Pioneers in leading learning**
- **Champions in leading achievement**
- **Trailblazers in leading success for all**

Centurion supports schools by:

- Respecting the **unique identity and ethos of each school**
- Providing **support and challenge through collaboration**
- Sharing expertise in curriculum design, inclusion, safeguarding and leadership
- Being financially responsible, ensuring **best value so more funding reaches pupils**
- Prioritising staff wellbeing, development and retention
- Raising aspirations and life chances through **high-quality, bespoke curricula**

All schools within Centurion are currently judged to be **good or outstanding**, and the Trust places a strong emphasis on safeguarding, governance and sustainability.

What is an academy and what would change?

Academies are **state-funded schools**, free to attend, and inspected by Ofsted in the same way as all other schools. They follow the same rules on admissions, SEND and exclusions.

If Westmoor were to join Centurion MAT:

- The school would **remain a primary school serving its local community**
- Children would **not** be affected in terms of admissions, curriculum breadth or daily school life
- Staff would transfer under existing protections (TUPE)
- The school would continue to be led on a day-to-day basis by its Headteacher and leadership team
- Governors would continue to play an important role through local governance arrangements

Any decision would be taken **only if governors are confident that Westmoor's ethos, community presence and standards would be protected and strengthened.**

Consultation process

The formal consultation period will run from:

02.03.26 to 29.03.26

During this time, we welcome your views, questions and comments.

There will be opportunities to:

- Access further information and FAQs **through the link on the home page of our website**
- Attend a **parent drop in session – Thursday 19th March 5-6pm**
- Submit comments by email to **consultation@westmoorprimaryschool.org.uk**

The website information is now live with details of the above.

Next steps

Following the consultation period, governors will carefully consider all feedback before deciding whether to proceed further. The outcome of the consultation will be shared openly with parents and carers.

In closing

We recognise that this may raise questions and we want to reassure you that **this exploration is about supporting long-term stability, quality and opportunity for all children at Westmoor.**

Your views are important to us, and we strongly encourage you to engage with the consultation process.

Thank you for your continued support of Westmoor Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sharon Trundley

Headteacher

Mr Adam Warkman

On behalf of the Governing Body
Westmoor Primary School

