



Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Potential Merger with Orchard Academy Trust

On 22nd April 2022, we wrote to you to advise you that we were in discussions with Orchard Academy Trust (OAT) about a potential merger.

As we said at the time we believed, and still believe, that our Values are aligned and that this would form a robust basis on which to build a formal and successful merger. The next key step was to go through the process of due diligence which has now been completed. The outcome of this process has made it clear that whilst both Trusts want the best for their pupils our approaches to delivering and achieving that end are not sufficiently aligned. Therefore, it has been decided not to proceed with the merger.

Coppice Primary Partnership, in line with the government's stated aims on 'Building Strong Academy Trusts' and our own ambitions, will be continuing to pursue opportunities for growth to ensure we remain a sustainable and strong group of schools with similar values to ourselves. We will of course keep you advised as and when there are further developments.

Finally, we believe that both ourselves and OAT have taken useful lessons from this process and there may be the opportunity for future collaboration between our Trusts, where this has mutual benefit. We wish them well for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carole Hardy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carole Hardy

Chair of Trustees