



Merebrook & Emerson Valley Schools – 5 Dimensions Trust MAT Parent FAQs

Over the past few months, we have been exploring the potential of a closer partnership between Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools and the 5 Dimensions Trust - which comprises of Shenley Brook End School, The Hazeley Academy and Priory Rise School. This has involved meetings between governors, trustees, senior leaders, and groups of staff.

We are now at a stage where Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools are considering joining the Trust. At the heart of this endeavour is a passion for creating and seizing opportunities, which keep our school and the community it serves moving forwards.

Alongside this, we realise that any potential change can be unsettling and for this reason, we have created this set of frequently asked questions for parents and carers. These questions are by no means an exhaustive list, but I hope that they will reassure and prompt other questions so that everyone's voices can be heard, and decision making can be genuinely open and transparent.

If you do have any comments or questions please use the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wY623YHijL>

Mrs Hayley White

Executive Headteacher

Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools

What are school Trusts?

School Trusts are groups of schools that come together to form a single organisation. School Trusts are specialist charities with one legal and moral purpose – to run and improve schools to advance education for public benefit.

The confederation of schools Trusts has some great resources which explain this on the following link [Trust The Facts \(cstuk.org.uk\)](https://www.cstuk.org.uk)

More details on the 5 Dimensions Trust can be found at:

<https://www.5dimensionstrust.com>

What are the reasons for Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools considering joining the 5 Dimensions Trust?

Values – Extensive partnership working has shown that our values are very similar.

Community and Proximity – Being part of a local Trust that also serves our children and community feels right on all levels

Opportunity - As there is only currently one primary school in the Trust, our schools will be well placed to shape what a 5D primary education looks like.

The Future Shape of Local Authorities- Government policies seem to be reducing the role of Local Authorities and increasing the likelihood that all schools may need to join Trusts. By moving now, we maintain control.

Independence – 5D Schools are encouraged to develop and share best practice while also building on their own distinctive characteristics.

Partnership working – Hazeley and Shenley Brook End have shown that by working in partnership they have increased their capacity to grasp opportunities and deal with challenges. We would like to do the same with Priory Rise School.

Particular areas we will be able to support each other include:

- Sharing technical expertise in areas non-teaching areas such as IT and Finance
- Developing an all through curriculum and teaching style
- Developing a shared training programme for staff
- Improved response to local challenges
- Support in crisis management

What is the timeline for this?

If we do progress, we hope to officially join by September 2024.

What changes will we see in the day-to-day running of Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools?

Both Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools have been inspected by OfSTED in the last academic year and were both graded as 'Good' Schools. Our schools are already highly successful and continue to improve, and so there are no urgent changes needed. If we do join, we will be keeping our own very distinct identities, but we do have a strong desire to constantly improve and continue to make our best even better. Most of the changes will be focussed on longer term developments in teaching, pastoral care and curriculum, along with operational support for things such as IT and finance.

How will this impact on our children's teachers and other staff?

One of the things that has attracted us to 5 Dimensions is that they are very clear that they want to work WITH our staff to help us grow and improve together. We believe that this will help both Merebrook and Emerson Valley Schools to continue to be great places for staff to work and develop, whilst also providing an opportunity for our schools to share excellence with others.

How will our children benefit from this partnership?

- Accessing a curriculum that is designed to support children from 4 – 18 years
- Clear and more fluid, supportive transition from Emerson Valley into the two secondary schools
- Access to wider and more enhanced resources to support the whole curriculum
- Common systems and structures in place from Early Years to 18 years