



Department
for Education

Academies Regional Delivery Group
Department for Education
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11 January 2018

Dear parents, carers,

You will be aware that Balby Carr Community Academy is currently part of Wakefield City Academies Trust (WCAT). WCAT announced in September that it had taken the decision to work with the Department for Education to look for a new trust for each of its schools. As a result, on 10 October 2017 you received a letter from the Trust letting you know that Astrea Academy Trust had been provisionally identified as the new trust for Balby Carr to join.

Following this, there was an opportunity for parents, staff, governors, local authorities, MPs and other interested parties to contact the Department for Education before 7 November (with this timescale later extended to 12 November), to share views on the proposals. I understand that, as part of gathering local views, Astrea has engaged with staff and parents at Balby Carr and I would like to thank all those who have engaged with them, or with the Department, during this process. It was very important to me that you had the chance to put your views forward before any final decisions were made.

Since 12 November, we have been carefully considering all views and information shared with the department. We have been focused on minimising any uncertainty for pupils, parents and staff by working quickly to take the final decisions on the trusts for each of the academies.

We are now in a position to confirm the final trusts for some of the academies earlier than anticipated, and as a result ministers have decided to announce final trusts for these schools now. We are continuing the important work to be in a position to confirm final trusts for the remaining academies as soon as possible.

At this stage ministers have not yet taken a decision on the final trust for Balby Carr. Astrea remains the preferred trust for Balby Carr and will continue to support the academy in the capacity that it has been doing thus far. Ensuring that all pupils receive the excellent education they deserve remains my priority and I am closely monitoring Balby Carr to ensure that the school has the appropriate support.

We are working to be in a position to confirm the final trust for Balby Carr in the coming weeks. It is important to be clear that we intend to transfer Balby Carr to a new trust within the current academic year.

Thank you for your patience and your continued engagement with this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a wavy line extending to the right.

John Edwards

Regional Schools Commissioner, East Midlands and the Humber