



Oaklands
School

13th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

Governing Body Consultation – Lawdale and Oaklands Schools Federation proposal

The Governing Bodies of Lawdale Junior School and Oaklands Secondary School propose to federate with one, shared governing body for both schools, from September 2026.

The governors have been talking about building a stronger, more sustainable future for our young people and families. Governors believe that a federation of the two schools will lead to significant benefits. The document attached explains the rationale for the proposal and the consultation process.

Further information is available on the school websites:

<https://www.oaklands.towerhamlets.sch.uk>. <https://lawdalejuniorschool.co.uk>

The consultation will run from 14th April until mid-day on 3rd June 2026.

As part of the consultation governors have organized:

- Online and Face to Face Meetings for staff, parents and wider stakeholders throughout the 7-week consultation process. Dates and Zoom/Teams Links are listed in the document. These will be emailed to parents and staff.
- An online consultation survey is available for your comments and questions. This will be emailed directly to parents and staff as well as located on the websites above.
- Consultation forms can also be returned as hard copy. Each of the school offices has a dedicated Consultation Comments Box.
- FAQs will be responded to at the range of meetings listed.

The draft proposal and consultation process has been shared with Tower Hamlets Local Authority, and the Education Unions for their response. It will also be circulated to Tower Hamlets Headteachers and their Chairs of Governors.

A summary of the feedback from stakeholders will be provided for Governors before they reach their decision and will be shared with stakeholders before the end of the Summer Term 2026.

The governors and school leaders welcome feedback, questions and discussion from all stakeholders on this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Annette Rook (Headteacher of Lawdale Junior School) &

Robin Polding (Chair of Governors of Lawdale Junior School)

Simon Ramsay (Headteacher of Oaklands Secondary school) &

Peter Sherratt (Chair of Governors of Oaklands Secondary school.)

Governing Body Consultation on the proposal to Federate Oaklands and Lawdale Schools to have one shared Governing Body

14th April – 3rd June 2026

The Proposal

As part of the ongoing work between our two schools, the Governing Bodies from the schools have been talking about building a stronger, more sustainable future for our children's education. The governors of Oaklands School and Lawdale School are proposing to merge the two governing bodies to form a single federation governing body, responsible for both schools. The two schools will continue to exist as separate schools, with individual Headteachers, budgets and OFSTED reports.



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Why are we proposing the change?

Our schools have increasingly been working together to ensure smooth transitions for our children. The Governors from Lawdale and Oaklands have discussed the future and agree that now is the right time to consider formalizing our partnership so that we can plan strategically together to continue to provide the best possible education for our children. We believe this will not only support excellent 7-19 planning but will also provide opportunities for us to review spending so that we can maximize value for money and shared access to resources. We think this is an exciting opportunity to build a collaborative partnership model focused on driving improvements for the whole community through an integrated educational excellence approach.

What would happen to our Headteachers?

Our current Headteachers are experts in their fields – junior and secondary education. They share a commitment to excellence and inclusion. The Federation would not change the current school leadership arrangements – they are working extremely well.

What are the benefits of working together in a Federation?

Children will benefit from the potential of a wider range of resources and enhanced staff development if our two schools work together.

We would be better able to provide continued access for pupils and their families to extended services and facilities.

Working together will help our schools to keep improving and moving forward by using expertise across the schools.

More development opportunities for the staff, such as shared training, and the chance to work more closely across the curriculum and age ranges and to gain experience and understanding in different environments.

Greater financial stability would make certain we continue to improve and offer world class education.

Each school will maintain their own budget but we will be able to support each other by sharing resources.

What will it mean for the children?

The whole purpose of seeking federation is to create an environment that will have a positive impact on the quality of education that children receive. The children will not notice any changes but we believe this development will enhance their learning opportunities.

In the future we would work towards joint approaches when appropriate – for example sharing some policies and procedures, and sometimes aligning staff training days and school holidays.

We will consider using staff and other resources across our schools, so that children will benefit from a wider range of resources and expertise.

What will it mean for the staff?

Again, very little will change on a day-to-day basis. Staff conditions of service will not be affected. All staff employed by our Governing Bodies will continue to work at their schools. There is no need for a staffing restructure as a result of the possible federation. The schools will be able to offer secondments to staff for particular roles and may also consider some posts existing across the schools in future.

Would there be any changes to the schools?

There would be no immediate changes to the functions of the schools as a result of becoming one governing body, but there will be developments over time, just as there would be in any school.

In the future, a single governing body would consider any possible changes across the schools, considering the needs of all the children in both schools, not just those at one or other school. Initially, governors propose maintaining a sub-committee for each school, which will meet termly and feed into the Federation Governing Body. The Federation Governing Body will be responsible for the statutory functions of a governing body as set out in

[The School Governance \(Roles, Procedures and Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2013, regulation 6\(2\)](#) ensuring

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteachers perform their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the schools' financial resources
- legislative responsibility for the schools' safeguarding arrangements

How will governors decide whether to implement the change?

Governors will consider all the responses to this consultation.

In order for Governors to consider views from all stakeholders the following consultation processes have been arranged:

This document will be circulated to all staff and parents, and posted on the School Website, as well as key stakeholders (DFE, LA, relevant Trade Unions, neighbouring schools).

- **Meetings for staff, and their union representatives at**

Oaklands School - 12th May 26 - 3.40- 4.40pm

Lawdale School - 5th May 26 - 3:40pm- 4:40pm

- **Meetings for parent/carers at**

Oaklands School - 28th April 26 - 3.40 – 4.40pm Equiano Hall

Lawdale School - 21st April 26 - 9:10am in the lower hall at Lawdale Junior School

- A consultation comments box is available in the Reception Area of both schools for those who prefer to submit written comments
- Both Headteachers and their Deputies will be available to answer face-to-face questions throughout the consultation. They will keep a record of questions asked. All questions raised will feed into a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which will be on the schools' website and updated regularly during the consultation.
- Students will be informed of the consultation during Assembly and Class and Form Tutors will discuss the proposal with students during class time in an age-appropriate manner.

The responses will be analyzed and a summary report will be available for Governors, to consider 7 days ahead of their Special General meeting, which will be made available for all stakeholders by the end of the Summer Term.

Governors will hold a Special Governing Body Meeting to consider the consultation responses together and then meet as individual school Governing Bodies to reach their decision on federation during the week beginning June 8th.

The governors' decision on whether or not to implement their proposal, and key reasons for their decision, will be notified to staff, parents and the Local Authority by 13th June 2026

Minutes of the meeting and the consultation response report will be available to parents, staff and other stakeholders before the end of the Summer Term.

How would the new Governing Body be set up?

It is proposed that the new governing body would start from 1st September 2026, in line with the new academic year.

The current governing bodies would cease to exist from 31st July 2026, but a sub-committee for each school will continue to meet termly.

A new governing body would be set up in line with national guidance, incorporating governance expertise from both schools. All governors on the new Governing Body are required to take full responsibility for considering all schools in the Federation.

The core governing body membership will have 15 members

If the decision is to have 1 staff governor the committee could be 9

- The two Headteachers.
- Two parent governors
- One elected staff governor
- One Local Authority Representative (to be nominated by the Local Authority if the proposal goes ahead).
- Nine co-opted governors, one of whom will be a member of staff, two of whom will be parent governors.

If the proposal goes ahead, a governance joint committee will prepare the instrument of governance for Local Authority approval in the second half of the summer term.

The new federation governing body will decide its committee structure and may appoint associate members to its committees, on an annual basis, to ensure appropriate expertise on each committee, ensuring current expertise is not lost.

How will admissions be affected?

Our schools working together in this way will not affect the admissions process. Parents will continue to apply to school following the usual Tower Hamlets processes. The Local Authority will remain the admissions authority. The point of admission used to measure distance to applicants' homes will not change, without full consultation, for either school. Any future changes in admissions arrangements would have to follow the annual admissions consultation process.

Why are we consulting you?

We want to consult you to gather your views because you are part of our schools' communities. The governing bodies of the schools cannot simply decide to make changes to schools without first seeking the views of parents and others. There is a legal process which must be followed before changes can be made, and it is important that the governing body hear your views before deciding whether to proceed.

All parents, and other stakeholders, are invited to respond to this consultation by completing the attached form and returning it to either school office, by attending one of the planned meetings or by submitting questions or views in writing.

What happens next?

The consultation period starts on 14th April and ends on 3rd June 2026. Mid-day. The last page of this document can be used to register your response, it should be returned to your school office when you have completed it. Following the consultation process, the joint governance committee and full governing bodies from each school will review your feedback and use it to decide whether to carry the proposal to federate forward in special meetings before half term.

Parents and other stakeholders will be notified in writing of the decision made before June 13th 2026.

How can I get more information on the proposal?

Information is available on the schools websites. If you have specific queries about the federation these can be raised at the planned meetings or be posted in the "Federation Comments" boxes at each school office or emailed to the schools.

The governing bodies from both schools will publish the feedback from the consultation on the schools' websites before the end of the summer term.

Lawdale Junior School Parent Consultation Meeting

Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 9:10 am Lower Hall

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Proposal to federate Oaklands School and Lawdale School

Our proposal is to bring the governance for Lawdale and Oaklands Schools together as one governing body from September 2026.

We welcome your views on this proposal. Please fill in this response form and return it to the address below no later than 3rd June 2026 before 1200 noon.

1) What do you think would be the benefits of this proposal?

2) Do you have concerns or questions about the proposal? Please help us by letting us know what these are below:

	Oaklands School	Lawdale School
I am a child attending	☐	☐
Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal. I have child/ren attending	☐	☐
I am a staff member at	☐	☐
I am a governor	☐	☐
Other (please describe)		

Your Name: (Optional)

Please return this form to the relevant school by 3rd June 26 before 1200 noon. Feedback from the question will be summarised numerically. Comments will be typed-up and anonymised.