

SUDBURY UPPER SCHOOL
Feedback from the initial ‘Trust School’ consultation process

From 1170 consultation documents issued to parents, staff and others there were 20 returns. The results of the initial consultation were as follows:

How do you feel about Sudbury Upper School becoming a Foundation School and acquiring a Trust?

	YES	NOT SURE	NO	Total questionnaires issued
PARENTS/STAFF	11	6	1	1170

We have received a letter from Suffolk County Council which states:

‘We are pleased to see your vision for transforming the school with the enhancement of the formal partnership and I hope that our comments will help you to continue that development.’

A meeting between the Service Director: Education and the Heads and Chairs of both Upper Schools is scheduled for February 23rd.

We received a response from UNISON expressing concern about the impact of the changes on school support staff. We believe that we have addressed their concerns in a letter and in the 2nd consultation document.

We received a response from NASWT and ATL. These were citing opposition to Trust Schools in general. Representatives have been invited to speak to the Governing Body and specific concerns have been addressed in the 2nd consultation document.

Analysis of the feedback forms:

Answers to the questions asked are to be found in the Statutory Proposal and in the ‘Questions and Answers’ document.

Question 1: How do you feel about Sudbury Upper School becoming a Foundation School and a acquiring a Trust?

11 supported the proposal. Further information was required on:

- the ratio of Trust Governors to other governors (1)
- the benefits of Trust Status for school and students (4)
- other schools who have Trust Status (1)

Question 2: How do you feel about Sudbury Upper School working with these partners?

10 supported the school's choice. Comment centred round:

- benefits or otherwise of working with business and charitable organisations. (5)
- could the same outcomes be achieved without Trust Status? (1)
- should more local employers be included? (1)

Question 3: Do you agree with the visions and aims as outlined?

There was full support for the vision. Comments centred round:

- these are probably current priorities anyway. (2)
- did the partners share this vision? (1)
- more emphasis should be placed on improvement of core subject results (1)
- involvement of Trust with Primary Schools (1)

Question 4: We propose that the Trust should appoint a minority of governors. Do you agree?

There was general support for the proposals although a number of questions were asked:

- who would control the school's finances? (1)
- would Parent Governors have less influence? (2)
- would the new role discourage parents from becoming a governor? (1)
- would the 'non-education' partners understand the educational aspect of their role?(1)
- from which areas would the other governors be drawn? (1)
- are Trust governors necessary? (1)

Question 5: Do you have any other comments?

Comments in this section centred round why a Trust is needed, whether this development would change behaviour and pupil performance, and what guarantees would be put in place to protect the position of support staff. Concerns such as the position of Primary Schools, support from the LA and the training of the Governing Body were also raised.