



# Department for Education

**Regional Schools Commissioner's Office  
North West London and South Central  
Floor 3  
34 Clarendon Road  
Watford  
WD17 1JJ**

28 March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Walker Primary School's conversion to academy status. As I have received a number of similar pieces of correspondence, I am also copying this response to the school's governing body so that it may be shared more widely.

The Department's vision is a school-led system where education professionals have the freedom to improve schools based on what they know works best, collaboration and the sharing of best practice. Our ambition is for every school that wants to, to benefit from the autonomy and freedom to innovate that academy status offers, and for schools to collaborate through strong multi-academy trusts.

All schools that are performing well can apply to convert to academy status. Other schools can apply to join an existing multi-academy trust or apply as part of a chain of schools.

Walker Primary School has chosen to become an academy and the department issued an Academy Order on 12 December 2018. I understand that the school's governing body is working towards Walker joining Ivy Learning Trust on 1 April. I am pleased that, in choosing to become an academy, Walker will be able to support and work in collaboration with other schools as part of a multi-academy trust, to help drive school improvement across the local area.

As you may be aware, the Academies Act 2010 (as amended by the Education and Adoption Act 2016) imposes a duty of consultation in the process of establishing an Academy under Section 5:

- Before a maintained school in England is converted into an Academy, the school's governing body must consult such persons as they think appropriate about whether the conversion should take place.
- Consultation for the purposes of this section may be carried out before or after an Academy order, or an application for an Academy order, has been made in respect of the school.

I understand that a six week consultation on the proposed conversion of Walker Primary school took place from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November of last year, and governors subsequently voted in favour of Walker Primary School converting to become an academy as part of the Ivy Learning Trust.

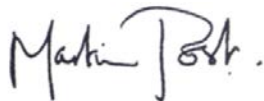
I would like to reassure you that my team have conducted further enquiries and sought assurances with respect to the concerns you raise. I am satisfied that the school and governing body have followed the correct procedure in applying to convert, and have complied with the duty to consult all interested parties, as set out above.

More information on the conversion process is available on our website and can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Post." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P'.

**Martin Post**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner, North West London and South Central**