

Date 11 February 2026

Subject: **An Update on School Leadership: Helen McGovern and Our Future Vision**

Dear Parents and carers,

We are writing to share some significant news regarding the leadership of our school as we look toward the next academic year.

After a long and distinguished career in education, our Headteacher, Helen McGovern, has previously shared her intention to retire at the end of this academic year. Helen has been a pillar of our community, leading with integrity and a deep-seated care for every child who has walked through our doors. While we will miss her leadership greatly, we wish her a very well-deserved and happy retirement when the time comes.

Furthermore, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our incredible staff at Carterhatch Junior School. Their hard work and dedication to our pupils continue to make our school a vibrant and successful place to learn.

Securing Our Future

As we begin the process of finding a successor, the Trust Board and Executive Team have carefully considered the evolving landscape of our school. We are currently navigating the challenges shared by many smaller schools, including a trend of decreasing pupil numbers.

To ensure our school remains stable, sustainable, and high-performing, we have decided to appoint an Executive Headteacher. This leader will provide strategic oversight for our school alongside Delta Primary School, one of our local schools within Connect Education Trust. It is the intention that the new Executive Headteacher will be the architect of our future, ensuring that the excellence Helen McGovern built is not only maintained but continues to flourish.

We want to reassure you that our current Senior Leadership Team remains strong and stable, providing the essential continuity and expertise needed to support our pupils and staff during this transition.

Why the Executive Headteacher Model?

We are incredibly positive about this transition. This model is a strategic choice designed to bring several key benefits:

- **Attracting Exceptional Leaders:** By offering a prestigious multi-school leadership role, we can attract a highly experienced Headteacher—a leader with a proven track record who is looking for the inspiring challenge of guiding two school communities.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Sharing leadership costs and expertise provides the financial and operational stability required to protect our school's unique character for years to come.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** This partnership will create exciting professional development opportunities for our staff, fostering a vibrant, supportive working environment.

Moving Forward

The recruitment process will be commencing shortly. Our priority is to find an exceptional leader who will champion our school's values while driving the high standards of excellence that our children deserve.

We will keep you closely informed as we reach key milestones in the appointment process. In the meantime, please join us in thanking Helen McGovern for her tireless service. We look forward to celebrating her achievements with you all later in the summer term.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Warm regards,

Androulla Nicou, CEO, Connect Education Trust

Alex Monk, Chair of the Trust Board

Telephone: 01992 760 678

Enquiries: contactus@connecteducationtrust.org

Registered office: Chesterfield Primary School, Chesterfield Road, Enfield, EN3 6BG, England

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