



December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of the Westacre Community,

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent consultation regarding the proposal for Westacre Middle School to join the Worcestershire Hills Trust. We greatly appreciated the time and thought you put into sharing your views.

Number of Responses

During the consultation period, we received six responses from parents, carers, and members of the school community. These responses reflected a range of perspectives, including supportive comments as well as constructive questions and concerns. Every response has been carefully read and considered by Westacre's Governing Body.

Themes Raised

Preserving Westacre's Identity and Ethos

Respondents expressed pride in Westacre's current success and questioned why change is necessary. We want to reassure you that our intention is to protect and strengthen what makes Westacre special. We have considered several trusts as part of this process, including local trusts, and we believe the values of the Worcestershire Hills Trust align closely with Westacre's own values. This alignment would allow us to preserve the ethos of our school while striving for the best possible outcomes for all pupils. We continue to be proud of the outcomes achieved by pupils at Westacre. However, we believe that more opportunities for collaboration with other good and outstanding schools will be of benefit to our pupils by helping us to ensure that they continue to make strong progress in all aspects of school life.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

A respondent asked how we will ensure continuity of mental health and wellbeing support. This remains a top priority for Westacre, and our commitment is to maintain - and where possible, enhance - these services. We will continue to purchase services, such as education psychologists and counsellors, to support us in this work.

Financial Stability and Costs to Parents

Questions were raised about whether this move is financially driven and whether parents might face increased costs for trips or transport. We can confirm that the Local Authority will continue to manage home-to-school transport, and any costs related to this remain the responsibility of the Local Authority, as is currently the case. Costs for school-based curriculum trips are calculated based on the cost of the trip and any associated transport. As these are school-organised trips, Westacre is responsible for calculating these costs and does not receive Local Authority support for them. This situation will remain the same if we were to join an academy.

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trust. Joining the Trust will further strengthen our financial position and allow us to invest in facilities without compromising our independence.

Governance and Accountability

Westacre will retain its Local Governing Body, ensuring continued local representation and oversight. The Trust operates as a not-for-profit organisation with a clear governance structure, and all schools remain bound by statutory codes and legislation.

Community Role

We are proud of the role we play in our community and want to reassure you that The Worcestershire Hills Trust shares our commitment to community engagement, and we will continue to work closely with local schools and families to deliver the best possible provision for our children.

Next Steps

Our formal consultation was an important step in gathering the views of all our stakeholders and has played a significant role in shaping our next steps. After carefully reviewing the responses and giving full consideration to the questions, concerns, and positive feedback received, the governors have agreed to proceed with plans to join the Worcestershire Hills Trust. The conversion process will take time and will involve due diligence exercises by both Westacre and the Trust. Please note that Westacre can withdraw at any point until the academy order is signed. However, the governors and senior leaders believe this is the best way forward for the school at this stage.

Thank you again for your engagement and support. Our shared goal remains the same: to provide the very best education and opportunities for every child at Westacre.

Yours sincerely,

Donna Evans

Headteacher

Sue Barkway

Chair of Governors