



**Inspiring Futures  
through Learning**

Registered at  
Fairfields  
Primary  
School

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[www.iftl.co.uk](http://www.iftl.co.uk)

Company no.  
07698904

Registered  
in England

Dear parents, carers and members of our communities,

## **Proposed Merger:** Inspiring Futures through Learning and Chiltern Learning Trust

### **Background**

In February 2026, we shared that an exploration into the merging of two trusts (Inspiring Futures through Learning and Chiltern Learning Trust), was to take place. We invited all members of our communities to share their thoughts and questions around this through surveys, meetings, emails and website contacts.

The engagement period has now ended and we thank you for all your questions, comments and feedback. Overall, responses have been positive and these have been fully considered in the decision of next steps. We can confirm that we are moving towards submission of a merger application to the Department for Education for their consideration.

There were some responses, from a variety of stakeholders, requesting clarity over a small number of issues and we would like to take this opportunity to address these in this summary.

### **What was the main rationale for the merger?**

- The opportunity to drive operational and fiscal efficiencies, to make the Trust and the schools sustainable, viable, and resilient.
- Following DfE and research guidance, as the direction is towards scale and collaboration.
- The two Trusts have worked in partnership for several years (in effect, our Teaching School and teacher training, around 25% of our work, merged three years ago).
- Close geographical alignment, which underpins strong collaboration.
- Complementary strengths (a primary trust and a predominantly secondary trust), so IFtL primary experts support CLT primary schools for the benefit of all staff and, therefore, all pupils. Similarly, CLT secondary experts support IFtL current and future secondary staff and, hence, pupils. This is naturally recognised expertise, helping support the education of all pupils across both trusts.



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### **What are the immediate savings, and will schools be affected financially?**

- There are no proposed financial implications or leadership implications for schools or Headteachers in the short term, and probably not in the longer term.
- In Years 2, 3, 4, as a three-year plan, there will be economies of scale. At a senior level, both trusts have operated with their own Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and C-suite teams. Going forward, there will be one leadership team, and at the senior level, this will save a considerable amount over three years. There will also be significant and identifiable savings in:
  - Increased buying power
  - Spend on contracts and services
  - Economies of scale over central services and operating costs

*This will create significant savings to be spent on front-line services such as teachers and students.*

### **What will be immediately different?**

- We have looked at how other trusts have merged and grown. In the first instance, the trusts would merge, but the schools retain the identity of 'Chiltern Learning Trust' or 'Inspiring Futures through Learning'. This 'soft landing' would immediately allow us to share world-class educational support across all our schools, to benefit our pupils. It would allow financial and operational savings to be made immediately. However, the 'soft landing' would allow us to set a new vision and direction as a larger group of schools without immediate time pressures and without spending on costly rebranding (this was a concern of some staff and parents). The working title of the proposed trust is 'Chiltern Futures', reflecting two very strong trusts coming together.

*In summary, therefore, for the immediate future, the outward impact would be minimal.*

As we await the consideration of the Department for Education, it is important to note that the two trusts continue to build on our existing work together fully, openly and with the intention of strengthening our relationships and practice to benefit our pupils, families, colleagues and wider communities.



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Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we hope this further informs you.

Sarah Bennett  
CEO

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