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## **Consultation on the proposal to form a Hard Federation between Barking Abbey and Eastbrook Schools.**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Barking Abbey community,

As you are aware Barking Abbey and Eastbrook schools have been working in partnership since September 2023. This partnership has been hugely successful for both schools as good practice and expertise has flown back and forth, resulting in demonstrable improvements in both schools. The governing bodies of both schools are pleased and proud with the way the partnership has evolved and made a real difference to our young people

The partnership has benefited both schools significantly;

- Ofsted. Barking Abbey achieved 'Outstanding' in all areas in February 2024 and Eastbrook achieved its best ever Ofsted inspection with 4 'Strong' grades under the new Framework in December 2025.
- Results for pupils. Eastbrook's results for Year 6 SATs have remained strong and the year 11 results are rapidly improving. Data from the Fisher Family Trust clearly shows that the school achieved its first ever positive Progress 8 result in 2025. Barking Abbey results for both year 11 and year 13 remain exceptionally strong and in 2025 the school achieved its strongest ever year 13 results, with 33% of all grades an A\* or A.
- Pupils on roll. Eastbrook school has been able to dramatically increase the number of pupils on roll with the primary phase now moving to becoming 2 form entry, the secondary phase much fuller in each year group and the sixth form currently at 200 and on track to be 250+ pupils in 2026. Barking Abbey remains heavily oversubscribed for year 7 and year 12.

Over this time the schools have evolved to work much more closely together and share resources and staff. This has benefited both staff and students equally.

The governors of both schools now feel the time is right to formalise the partnership, and are now proposing to form a Hard Federation which will ensure the long-term partnership continues. Evidence shows that when educational establishments work closely together academic and pastoral standards rise. The Department of Education is strongly encouraging schools to join together in formal structures. This national drive for schools to collaborate is an essential part of the future of education provision and is reflected in the Government's strategy and various



School of  
**CHARACTER**



initiatives. We believe a Hard Federation is the correct route for both schools. This allows each school to retain its own identity, its name, its uniform and everything that makes the school special whilst allowing the sharing and collaboration that we have seen makes a difference.

A Hard Federation is not an Academy Trust. Each school will retain its own separate identity in respect of budget, admissions, academic performance and Ofsted. Each school will remain a local authority school on their own sites. We are pleased that Mr Roe will remain as the Executive Headteacher across both schools.

The Federation will be called the 'BST Federation'. This stands for Belong, Succeed and Thrive. This name was chosen based upon the common values of each school community.

- Belong. Both schools place a lot of importance on community and pupils and staff belonging to a wider family. Everyone does well when they are seen and noticed.
- Succeed. We are very successful and success is what drives us as schools. Academic success, sporting success, cultural success we are PROUD to be the BEST in everything we do.
- Thrive. We believe in the development of the whole child. Children thrive when they are stimulated, cared for, encouraged, supported and guided.

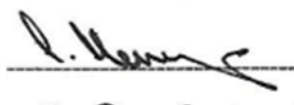
The Governing bodies of both schools fully support the formation of the hard federation between Barking Abbey school and Eastbrook School. The Local Authority also support and recommend this proposal. A statement of support can be seen in the proposal document.

Below is a link to the school's website where the full document can be found for the proposal. There is also a link where any parent, carer or other stakeholder can submit a question or a representation can be made.

[News & Events - Barking Abbey School](#)

The formal consultation will open on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and remain open for 6 school weeks to enable any questions to be answered or any written representations to be made.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hemmings', is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Hemmings  
Chair of Governors  
Barking Abbey School