

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

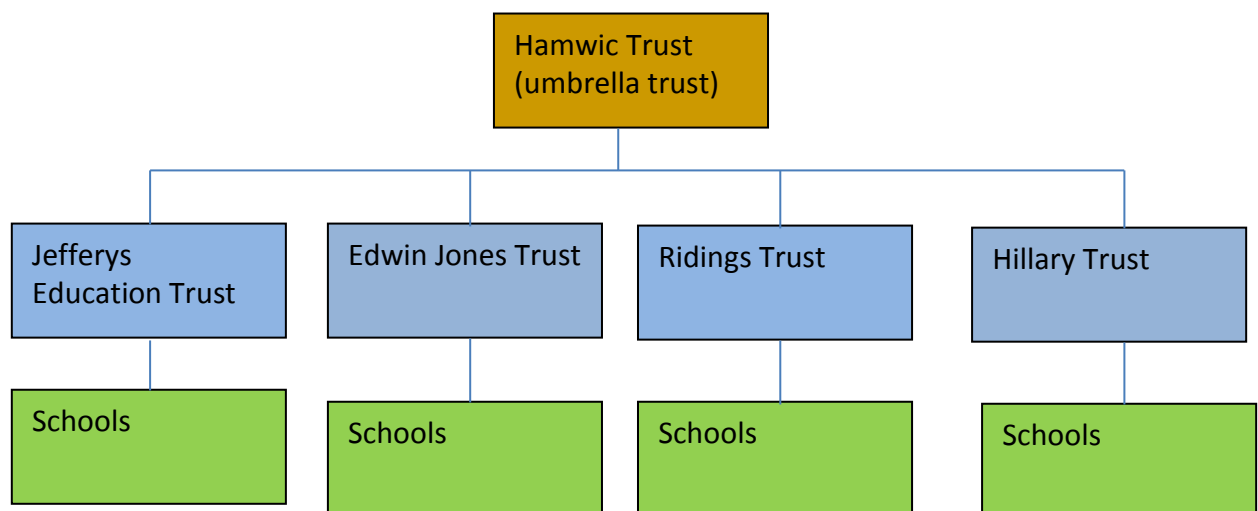
**Proposed governance restructure into the Hamwic Education Trust  
Information Letter**

I write to provide you with information in relation to a proposed governance restructure of Hamwic Trust of which Shirley Infant and Junior Schools are a part.

**Current governance model**

At present Hamwic Trust operates as an umbrella trust. This means that there are a number of Trusts that sit within Hamwic Trust. These are the Jefferys Education Trust, Edwin Jones Trust, Ridings Trust and Hillary Trust each of which is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). As a MAT each of these trusts is then responsible for a community of schools.

The current model therefore looks like this:



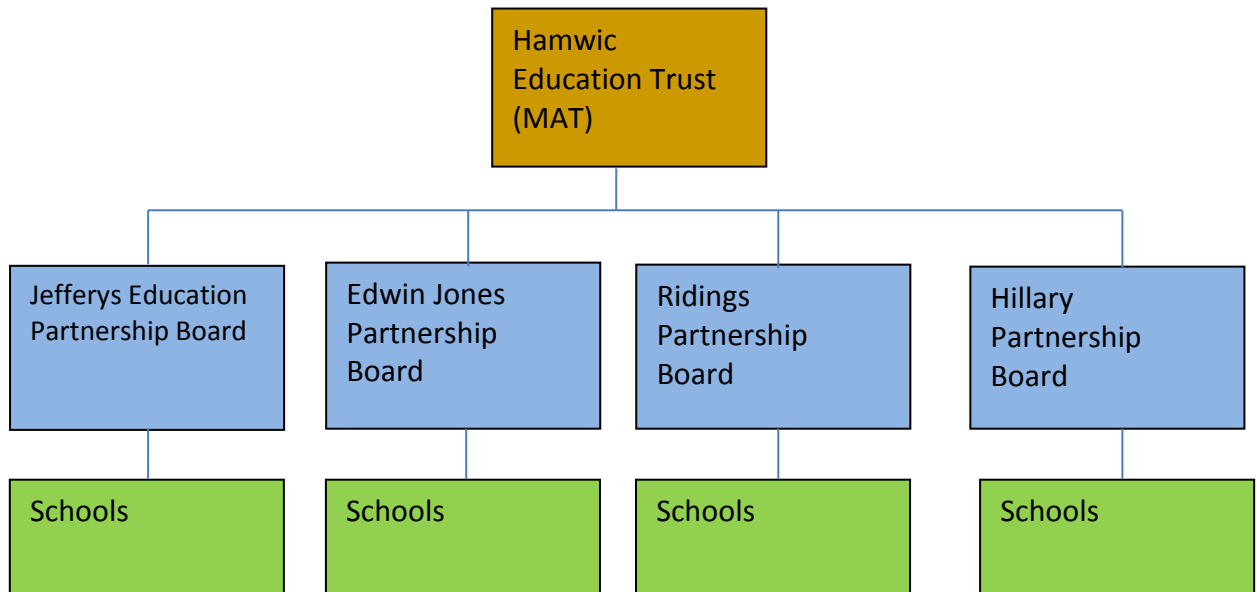
**New governance model**

The Department for Education (DfE) and Education Funding Agency (EFA) are no longer recognising the umbrella trust model as a legally acceptable model for MATs. They have therefore asked the Hamwic Trust and the Trusts within to restructure to form under one MAT as The Hamwic Education Trust.

We are extremely proud of our model, built around communities of schools, and what we have achieved both collectively and individually. We are keen to protect our way of working and ensure that our ethos and values remain in the new structure.

In order to achieve this we are working together with the Hamwic Governance and Ethos Committee, the Directors of the MAT Boards and School Leaders to ensure that any restructure is carried out smoothly and with minimal impact on the running of our schools. We also propose to replace the existing MATs with Partnership Boards.

The new governance structure will look like this:



### Implications

In practice this governance restructure will have minimal impact on day to day operations of school life. The changes are focussed on the legal framework within which the Hamwic Trust schools operate and the legal documents underpinning that framework. We do not anticipate that the restructure will adversely affect funding to the schools within the Hamwic Trust but we will of course keep this under review and provide further details if any unexpected adverse implications are identified.

The DfE have asked us to complete this governance restructure by August 2018. We are therefore adopting a staggered approach to the restructure and moving the existing MATs to the Hamwic Education Trust in stages.

We are communicating with staff in relation to the proposed new governance model and would welcome input from parents and carers also. If you do have any comments or feedback on the proposed governance restructure please do email [governance@hamwic.org](mailto:governance@hamwic.org). Should there be an appetite we may arrange drop in sessions to allow parents and carers the opportunity to raise any further questions they may have.

Yours sincerely

**Robert Farmer**

CEO

**Dave Ellis**

Chair of Hamwic