

Unified Provision Charter

The Auriga Academy Trust (AAT) and Coombe Academy Trust (CAT) are consulting on the formation of the [XYZ Trust](#), as detailed in the consultation documents. This Charter sets out the principles and commitments that will safeguard the identity, ethos, and excellence of both specialist and mainstream provision within the merged trust. It will ensure that the unique strengths of all [[XYZ Trust](#)] schools are preserved, celebrated, and enhanced within a collaborative, inclusive educational partnership.

Successful trusts are united by their common vision and ethos. [XYZ Trust](#) will foster an open dialogue, to enable schools to learn and improve together. We recognise that *the strongest trusts are those where schools have the freedom to innovate but are also willing to align around a shared purpose and a commitment to collective success.*

1. Character and Identity

- All schools will retain their **distinctive character, name, branding, and community identity**,
- The Trust will publicly affirm the importance of **both mainstream and specialist education** as core to its mission, with the highest aspiration for all children and young people.
- Communications will clearly distinguish between **mainstream, Specialist Resource Provision (SRP), and special school provision**, helping families make informed choices.

2. Leadership and Representation

- A senior leader with specialist experience and responsibility for SEND and School Improvement Systems will sit on the Executive Leadership Team. This role will ensure a cohesive Trust wide SEND approach.
- Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) will be established for each school, with delegated authority over key aspects of school life.
- Both Trusts will have **guaranteed representation** on the revised Trust Board and any relevant strategic committees.

3. Curriculum and Pedagogy

- All schools will retain autonomy over **curriculum design and delivery**, whilst benefiting from collaboration across the MAT, therefore ensuring aspirational outcomes for all pupils.
- Special schools will continue to deliver **bespoke curricula** tailored to complex needs and will not be required to conform to mainstream models of curriculum or assessment.
- Inclusion strategies will be designed to **enhance, not dilute**, curriculum delivery.
- The Trust will support the **development and sharing of pedagogical expertise** across all settings.

4. Staffing and Professional Development

- Staffing levels at AAT schools will continue to focus on meeting the support needs of their pupils based on existing income models.
- All staff will have access to **specialist targeted CPD**, including inclusive practice, therapeutic approaches, and SEND leadership.
- Career pathways will support **movement between mainstream and specialist settings**, while retaining expertise and role clarity.

5. Inclusion and Outreach

- The Board and Executive will invest in the new Trust's capacity to act as a **regional centre of excellence** for SEND, benefiting schools within and beyond the MAT.
- All schools will play an equal role in shaping the Trust's **inclusion strategy**.
- Collaborative projects between schools will be planned and delivered, with readiness and capacity considered.

6. Admissions and Placement Clarity

- The Trust will maintain **clear public communication** distinguishing between specialist and mainstream provision, including the role and scope of SRPs.
- Admissions policies will remain unchanged as a result of the merger. The Trust will help all to recognise that **mainstream schools are not substitutes for special schools**, and SRPs are designed for specific needs. The Trust will work with local authorities to ensure **appropriate placement guidance** is provided to families.

7. Funding and Resources

- All schools will retain responsibility over their **delegated budgets**. Benchmarking of budget expenditure will carefully consider the unique needs of each school within the Trust.
- Savings from central efficiencies will be **equitably reinvested** across the Trust. The FAQs on the consultation provide further guidance in this.
- Capital funding and estates development will be **allocated fairly**, based on need and strategic priorities.

8. Balanced Growth and Representation

- Strategic growth of the Trust will ensure a **balanced portfolio** of mainstream and specialist schools.
- Governance structures will reflect the **diverse needs and priorities** of both mainstream and specialist settings.
- The Trust will monitor and report on the **impact of inclusion policies** on mainstream school outcomes and pupil experience.

9. Communication and Community Engagement

- The Trust will develop a **communications strategy** to educate families and stakeholders about what each school offers and specifically the differences between SRPs and special schools.
- Mainstream schools will be supported in **managing community expectations** regards SEN provision, including via joint messaging and outreach.
- This Charter will be shared with all stakeholders to ensure **transparency and alignment**.

10. Accountability and Review

- The Charter will be reviewed **annually** by Trust leaders and governors.
- Progress will be reported to the Trust Board and shared with stakeholders.
- Any proposed changes will be subject to **consultation** with school leaders across all settings.

This Charter is a binding commitment to uphold the values, expertise, and community role of every school in the Trust. It ensures that, within a diverse and inclusive organisation, both mainstream and specialist provision are protected, empowered, and celebrated.