



FAQs - Rosendale and The Elmgreen schools to join the Dunraven Educational Trust

Below are answers to some of the key questions concerning the schools in the Great North Wood Education Trust (GNWET) joining the Dunraven Educational Trust (DET) that were raised as part of the recent consultation process.

What are GNWET and DET?

The GNWET is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) that was formed by Rosendale Primary School (RPS) and The Elmgreen School (TES) in 2017. DET is also a MAT formed in 2016 and consists of the Dunraven all through school, Van Gogh Primary and Goldfinch Primary schools.

Why are the Trusts joining together?

There are benefits for smaller trusts combining to form medium sized trusts given the pressures on school budgets and the drive to improve educational performance. There is also considerable government encouragement for schools to come together in 'strong multi academy trusts'. For GNWET and DET, there are a lot of shared values, as well as alignment in terms of vision and culture. The schools will retain their identity and be run by their senior team and governing board within the framework of the wider DET.

What are the Benefits of joining together?

For our students and families, there is the broader curriculum access than can be delivered, as has been the case with post-16 education in SL6. There will be access to a wider range of professional and pastoral expertise to help families get the best support for their children. Similarly, there is the potential to develop wider access to extra-curricular activities and after school clubs across the Trust (some already exist within the SL6 provision for post-16 students).

DET has a London-wide reputation for effective inclusion [practice](#) which complements the excellent work of TES. Joining together will also bring key specialist provision (speech and language in DET; impaired hearing and SEMH support in TES.)

For our staff there is access to broader knowledge and career development opportunities as part of a larger organisation (which also provides enhanced recruitment and retention opportunities). The opportunity to create an internal network of teaching and learning excellence across phase teams and subject departments. This will lead to greater professional challenge and reward for staff. There is also increased capacity for the improvement of our practice building on the experience of being a Research School (NRS) at Rosendale and a [National Teaching School](#) (NTS) based at Dunraven.

For school leaders there is the opportunity to build capacity in leadership to support succession planning in our schools (e.g. many senior leaders from Dunraven, TES and RPS have gone on to



successful Headships in the last 15 years)

For school organisation, administration and finances, improved economies of scale makes the Trust more resilient for the long term and increases the resources available to support the education of children and young people in our schools. DET now has experience as a successful sponsor. Going forward, the partnership provides increased capacity to sponsor schools in challenged circumstances in order to support the life chances of a larger number of vulnerable young people. There is the chance to build on a strong record of educational and organisational development along with business acumen including the ability to raise further revenue to meet the Trust's educational aims and help ensure financial stability.

There is the opportunity to create an organisation across phase hubs, which provides a 'network within a network', greater curriculum development and support for students transitioning through the key phases and greater collaboration through a larger student body.

When are the Trusts joining together?

There has been an 'in principle' agreement from the governing trustees from both DET and GNWET to go ahead with the aim of completing by 1 September 2021 in time for the new school year. Following discussions between the two trusts and due diligence carried out over the past 6 months, consultation sessions with stakeholders, including families of children and students at the schools, and staff were carried out in late April and early May 2021. The Regional Schools Commissioner and her Headteacher Board formally approved the proposal in late May.

How will the enlarged DET work from September?

The GNWET Board will cease to exist and the role of the trust board will be carried out by the DET Board. The schools within the trust will continue to manage themselves day to day within the wider DET policy framework. The DET Board will be the responsible body, accountable for the performance of the schools within the trust and of the MAT itself.

Each school within the Trust has its own Local Governing Board comprising parents, staff and community members. An agreed [Scheme of Delegation](#) sets out the responsibilities for each of the Trust Board, the Trust executive leadership, the Local Governing Boards and the headteachers. This document is regularly reviewed and amended as necessary. The DET currently has a Trust Board of 9 trustees and this will increase to 11 once the GNWET schools have joined.

Will this change the way the schools work?

The enlarged DET will consist of 5 schools: Dunraven's all through school, The Elmgreen School, Van Gogh, Rosendale and Goldfinch primary schools. Each school has an established identity and loyal community of staff, students and parents. DET will continue to celebrate the unique presence our schools have in their communities founded on their diversity and clear ethos. The aim of the Trust is to build on each school's success and support them in dealing with the challenges they face.

Staff will remain in place and there will be no changes to the school buildings and wider grounds.



The schools will be under the day to day leadership of the existing headteacher aligned with DET policy.

DET encourages support and engagement with families and students and would not look to change current practice unless to improve it. It is aware of the reputation of Rosendale and The Elmgreen schools that has made them popular choices for local parents and would want that to continue.

Will DET primary students get preferential admission to Dunraven or TES?

The admissions procedures for Dunraven and TES will remain the same and therefore being part of DET does not give priority¹ to DET primary students for secondary transfer.

Are the schools' budgets combined in one DET budget?

There are separate school accounts within the overall DET budget. School budgets are managed by individual schools but approved by the DET Board who are the responsible body.

The trust has a Central Team for managing finance, HR, governance administration. This is an identifiable cost with its own budget separately approved by the DET Board. This combines the costs that would be accrued by separate schools or smaller trusts and will represent an area for savings compared to 2 smaller trusts such as DET and GNWET.

What are the challenges the Trust faces going forward?

There are a number of challenges that have been identified that affect most state funded schools and MATs. These are issues around budget pressure, falling school rolls, OFSTED and curriculum pressures as well as changes to how we deliver teaching and learning in the face of a future pandemic. These will still need to be addressed but the enlarged DET will provide more resilience, flexibility and resources to tackle them and keep the local community focus of the GNWET and DET schools.

¹ Dunraven all through school gives priority to its primary-aged pupils as part of its existing agreed admission policy.