

1 July 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Authentic Education and United Learning

Following our letter of 11 June, we wanted to write to you to confirm that DfE have approved the proposed transfer of the Authentic Education schools to join United Learning. We are delighted with this outcome and are confident that joining United Learning will help sustain the positive impact seen in the early stages of our partnership during the current academic year. Colleagues in both Trusts have been working closely over the last few months, and we will now progress the legal and operational work required to deliver the transfer, which we expect to complete during the autumn term.

We aim to make the move to United Learning as smooth and seamless as possible for both students and staff. There would be no changes to the structure of the schools or their admissions policies, and on a day-to-day basis they would run as normal. However, students would benefit from a wide range of additional opportunities and staff would have access to United Learning's continuous professional development programmes. In joining United Learning, we hope to enhance standards across the schools in all areas so that every student is given every chance to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Introduction to United Learning

There are over 100 schools in United Learning, each with its own identity and ethos that chimes with the community it serves – context matters, and one size does not fit all. The Group includes co-educational and single sex schools as well as all-through, secondaries and primaries. Many of the schools have existed for decades and have a strong legacy, others are entirely new and have developed their own character and identity.

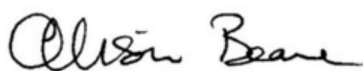
United Learning has had a strong presence in the Bournemouth and Poole area for over ten years; other local schools include Glenmoor and Winton Academies, the Avonbourne Academies, The Cornerstone Academy and Avonwood Primary School. Each of these schools has its own very specific identity and ethos but is strengthened by the support and collaboration it receives as part of the Group. The trust provides support that is tailored to meet the needs of individual settings, challenging colleagues when there is room for improvement and helping to maintain high standards where practice is already strong.

The Group's school improvement approach offers a range of models for peer review and school-to-school support, which not only stretch and challenge staff through access to exceptional practice elsewhere, but also offer opportunities for staff to develop their skills through supporting others. As well as equipping staff with the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their roles, the Trust's CPD programme focuses on professional growth, and on helping every individual member of staff develop their career in the way they wish.

We appreciate that parents and carers may have questions they wish to ask about United Learning and what it means to be part of the group, as well as the transfer process more generally. We will share details of meetings at individual schools early in the new academic year, where we will be happy to provide more information about the proposal.

United Learning is very much looking forward to formally welcoming the schools into the group in the autumn term – in the meantime, we hope the summer ahead is a happy and positive one for you all.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Beane OBE

Chair of Trustees

Authentic Education



Sir Jon Coles

Chief Executive

United Learning