

## CONSULTATION NOTICE

### **Proposed Change of Category to Foundation School Ferndown Upper School, Cherry Grove, Ferndown, Dorset**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and associated regulations that the Governing Body of Ferndown Upper School is formally consulting on a proposal to change the school's category from a community-maintained school to a Foundation School (without an associated Foundation).

The Governing Body proposes that this change will take effect from 30 April 2026.

Since Ferndown Upper School will remain a non-denominational school, the proposed change will have no impact on the balance of school provision within the local area.

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### 1. Description of the Proposal

The proposal is for Ferndown Upper School to convert to Foundation School status. As a Foundation School:

- The school will remain a maintained school funded by Dorset Local Authority.
- The Governing Body will become the employer of school staff.
- The Governing Body will become responsible for admissions arrangements, in accordance with the national School Admissions Code.
- The Governing Body will become responsible for the ownership or control of the school's land and buildings, held in trust for educational purposes.

The school's ethos, values, curriculum, and day-to-day operations will not change as a result of this proposal.

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### 2. Reasons for the Proposal

The Governing Body believes that Foundation School status will enable the school to:

- Strengthen long-term governance and strategic decision-making
- Protect and sustain the school's ethos and character
- Respond more flexibly to the needs of students, families, and the community

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### 3. Consultation Period

This notice marks the beginning of the formal consultation period. All interested parties are invited to submit their views.

The consultation will run from: 13.2.26 to 13.3.26.

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#### 4. How to Respond

Comments, representations, or objections may be submitted by:

**Email:**

school@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

**Post:**

FAO: Foundation Consultation Response  
Ferndown Upper School  
Cherry Grove  
Ferndown  
Dorset  
BH229EY

All responses must be received no later than 13.3.26.

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#### 5. Publication of Outcomes

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the Governing Body will meet to consider all responses received and determine whether to proceed with the proposal. The decision will be published on the school's website.

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**Signed:**



Chair of Governors / Headteacher  
Ferndown Upper School  
Cherry Grove, Ferndown