



**Lord Nash**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

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Ms Shazia Parveen  
Chair of Governors  
Al-Madinah Education Trust  
Norman House  
Friar Gate  
Derby  
DE1 1NU

22 November 2013

Dear Ms Parveen

**Al-Madinah – next steps**

Thank you for your letter of 1 November and the information you provided in response to my letter of 8 October. I am grateful for the positive way you have worked with DfE officials during this period.

I have considered your response carefully. Overall, I am not satisfied that you have demonstrated a strong basis for the transformation required at the school.

I cannot tolerate any child experiencing a poor quality of education in any state-funded school and am therefore determined to ensure there is a swift resolution. I have decided that the needs of the pupils at Al-Madinah school would be best served by bringing in a more experienced Trust with the skills and capability required to deliver the improvements needed at the school. To that end, I have asked Barry Day, Chief Executive of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust, to start work with you. You and your fellow Trustees have agreed to resign in due course.

I know that Barry is very keen to meet with Al Madinah Trustees, governors, staff, pupils, parents and the wider community to secure the future of the school and discuss the way ahead with his Trust Board.

I have asked officials at the Department to assist you and the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust in ensuring that all aspects of this transition are implemented smoothly. I am grateful for your commitment to continued cooperation in the interests of the children at the school over the coming weeks.

The Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust has already demonstrated its ability to transform struggling schools. At the Weston Favell Academy Ofsted identified

“dramatic improvements to the quality of teaching” in just one year; and at the Nottingham Academy Ofsted found the standard of leadership and management to be outstanding. Between 2011 and 2012, Key Stage 2 results increased by an average of 9 percentage points across Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Schools, almost double the national increase. At GCSE, the proportion achieving 5\* A-C grades including English and maths increased by an average of 4 percentage points, almost four times the national average.

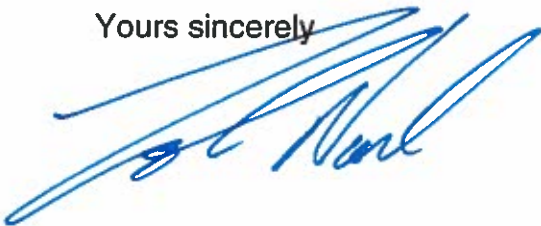
An important factor in making my decision is delivering your original vision for an inclusive, all through school with a Muslim ethos, serving the local community. The Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust has a track record of providing a high quality education to children from a Muslim background and I have no doubt that they will apply this expertise at the Al-Madinah School.

I am confident that, working closely with you, the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust will ensure that parents and the wider community are engaged throughout the transition period and beyond. Department officials are ready to provide support over the next few weeks and I would encourage both Trusts to make full use of their expertise as you see fit.

I have asked my office to arrange a meeting with you and Barry Day at a suitable point during the transition.

I am copying this letter to Barry Day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nash', written in a cursive style.

JOHN NASH