

The Epworth Educational Trust

Contact Name and details	The Revd Dr Roger L Walton Chair, Methodist Schools Committee
Action Required	For information
Resolution	22/1. The Council receives the report.

It is exciting to be able to report to the Council that the proposed merger between the Wesley Trust and the Acorn Trust has taken place. On 1 November 2020, the Epworth Education Trust was formed with five schools in the North West of England, with a sixth school expected to join on 1 December 2020. This part of the Methodist Schools network specifically supports Academies and helps them to work together. We continue to work with the whole range of schools through the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) and the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST). The three Trusts working closely together has enabled this latest development.

The new Trust (EET) is already held in high regard by education leaders in schools and government officials, which reflects well on the Methodist Church, and EET has sponsorship status, which means that it can welcome other schools, some not currently Methodist schools, into the fold and bid for schools in new areas.

The Council delegated to the Methodist Schools Committee responsibility for seeing the details of the merger to its completion. This we have done, but it is important to say that the Acorn and Wesley Trusts have carried out the bulk of the work and thanks are owed to many people for their desire to see a strong, well respected, Multi-Academy Trust under the Methodist Church and their hard work in achieving this. Particular thanks are due to David Kershaw (Chair of the Wesley Trust and the first Chair of EET); Mrs Julie-Ann Hewitt (CEO of Acorn and Wesley Trust and now EET); Mr David Harrison (Chair of the Acorn Trust); Mrs Barbara Easton (Head of Service for MAST); Mr Jason Field (Finance Officer for Wesley Trust); Mrs Jo Buckley (Chief Finance Officer for Acorn Trust); Mr John Weaving (Director of Wesley Trust) and Mr Tom Cadman (Director of Wesley Trust).

***RESOLUTION

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