



Gilbert Colvin Primary School

Monday 20th April 2026

Dear Families,

We are writing to share an important update about the next phase in Gilbert Colvin Primary School's development.

The governing body and leadership team have been carefully considering how we can continue to grow and thrive as a school in the years ahead. In doing so, we have reflected on the many strengths of the school and the strong progress we are now seeing. We are very proud of the positive direction the school is taking, underpinned by the dedication and hard work of our leadership team and staff.

Alongside this however, like many schools, we are facing increasing financial pressures. We have also recognised that the level of support available to us in the past has not always enabled the school to move forward as quickly or as sustainably as we would have hoped. As a result, we have been exploring how we can secure the right level of support, capacity and expertise to continue this positive trajectory now and in the future.

One of the options we have considered is whether joining a local academy trust could help us build on recent improvements and provide greater long-term educational and financial stability.

Following a careful and considered process, the governors have now formally agreed to move forward with a proposal for Gilbert Colvin Primary School to join Strive4 Academy Trust - a local, Redbridge-based, values-driven trust that shares our educational ethos and commitment to putting children central to decision-making.

This proposal is intended to strengthen the school's future by providing access to additional financial resilience, support and expertise. We believe it offers clear benefits for both pupils and staff, including enhanced opportunities for collaboration, professional development, and sustained school improvement.

The proposal will now be considered by the Department for Education's Regional Director and Advisory Board in June/July. At the same time, colleagues from Strive4 will begin working with us to understand our school's strengths and identify areas for future development.

Should the DfE approve the proposal, we will launch a formal consultation at the end of the summer term/start of the autumn term, during which staff, parents,

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local schools and the wider community will be invited to share their views. In the meantime, we have attached a FAQ sheet that may support you with some of the initial questions you may have.

We will keep you fully informed as this process moves forward, and provide opportunities to ask questions and contribute your thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Cohen
Headteacher, Gilbert Colvin Primary School

K. Yeates

Kieran Yeates
Chair of Governors, Gilbert Colvin Primary School

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