



## Mossbourne Federation

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Dear Parents and Carers,

After 8-10 weeks of activity behind the scenes, we wanted to update you as to the position of the Mossbourne Federation in response to allegations regarding the safeguarding practices of our schools. We are hugely grateful to all parents who during this period have sent us many messages of support or have written on their own behalf in the media to express support and thanks for all that our schools have achieved since 2004 and continue to achieve.

As you may know, a number of allegations have been made against Mossbourne schools in a dossier sent to Hackney Council, which was also provided to the local media. We take any concerns about child safeguarding seriously and wish to respond to concerns properly. It is therefore concerning to us that this dossier was not received through the Federation's complaints procedures.

In December 2024, we were first notified of the review into Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy (MVPA). Since then, we have been in regular contact with the commissioning body, the CHSCP (City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership), to clarify the exact nature of those allegations and the proposed review. Despite frequent requests of the CHSCP, Hackney Council and the Department for Education, nobody has been prepared to disclose any details of the allegations. This has hindered our ability to address them although we have been advised by the CHSCP that no child is at any immediate risk of significant harm and that no urgent action is required in respect of staff members.

We have confirmed that we will cooperate with any review insofar as our involvement does not impact adversely our primary objectives of looking after our students safely and within an environment which helps them to achieve their full ambitions.

The review will be led by Sir Alan Wood. He has asked that the attached self-explanatory letter and questionnaire are shared with you; you are invited to complete and return them directly to him. The Federation will not have access to any responses submitted through this process. We hope that you will take the opportunity to say what you want to say on the questionnaire – whether good or bad. We want to make this exercise a learning process.

Separately, as a Federation we are concerned that some parents and carers may have lost confidence in the Federation's formal complaints procedures. We wish to ensure for the future that the Mossbourne community has trust and assurance in the Federation's procedures and does not feel the need to take any concerns to the media. Above all, we are committed to safeguarding student welfare at Mossbourne schools.

To that end, we are delighted that the Bourne Family Trust, in its capacity as overarching Member of the Federation, has invited an external senior barrister to conduct an independent assessment of the Federation's complaints procedure, and parents' and carers' experiences using it. The barrister will report directly to Daniel Flitterman (son-in-law of Lady Bourne), Tareic Alphonse (local resident) and Shede Javadzadeh (former student). Contact information, and further details about the conduct of the assessment, will be provided in due course. We urge you to engage with this review when invited to do so. The Federation will respond to any recommendations arising from this review constructively and seriously.

Thank you again for your patience and support during a difficult time. We hope that you will participate in both reviews as you see fit.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Colthurst

**Chair**

Peter Hughes

**CEO**