



Quality First Education Trust

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Chief Executive Officer

John Grove

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Our first priority is to the children and families we serve. We are working to ensure we can offer all children and families who request it an excellent state funded bilingual provision at Belleville Wix Primary School from September 2026.

The Q1E Trust, our Trustees, and I are committed to the bilingual relationship and our agreement over the lease. We have worked very hard to improve the relationship with the Lycée and secure it over the last few years.

Our meetings with the Lycée and the French diplomat, Stephane Foin, prior to the summer holidays were very positive, and no issues were raised. After that meeting, we were asked to create a clubs provision for Ecole de Wix at very short notice, and our team worked hard over the summer break to achieve this.

We have invested significantly in improving the fabric of the building, as well as in making adjustments to meet additional French requirements and reducing in real terms the cost of their accommodation on site. In addition, we have worked hard to improve the cleaning and meal provision, bringing in a new school caterer for this academic year. For clarity, Belleville Wix Academy pays for the school meal provision and only passes on the real costs of the meals to Ecole de Wix. We have also invested significant time and energy to develop the curriculum and provided support in the challenging times following the Lycée's Ofsted. In fact, it was not very long ago that we were in dialogue with the Lycée about how we could extend our shared bilingual provision.

I was at the meeting where Gilles Morellato, Deputy Cultural Counsellor to the French Embassy was introduced to us for the first time and announced that the Lycée were withdrawing from the bilingual provision. We were given no advance notice of this decision and were surprised and disappointed by this news. Since then, we have been actively working with the French Embassy to try and find a solution to maintain the existing bilingual provision, alongside planning for a strong, free bilingual provision from September 2026 if the French issues are ultimately irresolvable.

As part of our communications, we received confirmation from the French Embassy that 'the Lycée will be consistent in its treatment of its bilingual streams' at Belleville Wix Academy and Holy Cross in Fulham. Following letters sent by the Lycée to the families registered with their bilingual streams on Friday, that position is now unclear in both schools.

For the Q1E Trust, the Trustees and the leadership team at Belleville Wix Academy, maintaining and developing our 20-year relationship is our preferred option, and we are working hard to achieve a positive outcome.

Yours,

John

John Grove
CEO
Quality First Education Trust