

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is an Academy?

An Academy is a state school that is run by an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the Academy. The Academy is funded directly by the Government and not through the Local Authority. The Trust is given charitable exemption, which means it must operate much like a charity.

2. What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is when 2 or more Academies come together in partnership. Byron Primary School Governing Body believes that the best option is to join a local Multi Academy Trust.

Each school will keep its own name and each school will convert to an Academy. In the future, it will be possible to grow the Trust by other Schools/Academies joining the Trust. This could include both secondary and primary schools.

3. Bradford Birth to 19 MAT Structure.

Members.

- Akin to the shareholders of a company i.e. custodians of the Trust
- Ultimate control over the MAT
- They set up the Board of Directors/ Trustees

Trustees.

- Provide Strategic Direction
- Hold the CEO, Head teachers/principals to account
- Ensure financial probity
- Delegate governance functions to the LGB

Local Governing Body (LGB)

- The current Governing Body continues to operate in a similar way to how it currently operates.

Leadership Structure.

Chair of Trustees. William Nabarrow.

MAT CEO. Wahid Zaman.

Chief Financial Officer. Ailsa Hoyland.

4. What is involved in becoming an Academy?

The school will complete a consultation with parents, pupils and the wider community. The Governing Body will take into consideration the views expressed by respondents in reaching their final decision.

The Chair of the Governing Body will submit an application to the Secretary of State for Education to convert the school to an Academy. The Secretary of State will decide to approve (or reject our application).

Once the consent is given to convert by the Secretary of State for Education, each school is given £25,000 to cover the conversion process for example to meet legal fees etc.

5. How would converting to an Academy benefit our School?

Academy status will give all schools in the Trust freedom and flexibility to deliver excellence in education for all our children. The Trust would be in direct control of resources and will be able to prioritise and deliver what best meets the needs of learners and the community each school serves. The Trust will also be able to share skills across all its schools and operate more effectively.

6. Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?

No, the Governors have no plans to change the name, logo, uniform or individual identity of each school.

7. How are our children affected?

At the time of conversion to an Academy the children will not notice any difference.

They will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. The proposed new Trust will continue to strive for an outstanding education for all our children. The sharing of resources, maximising on the training opportunities for our teachers and innovating our teaching methods with all the schools in the Trust will bring improvements in the way children learn.

8. How will being an Academy affect staff?

Bradford City Council ?? is the current employer for staff and following conversion the proposed Trust will be the new employer. All staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Their continuity of service is protected, and all staff will be consulted in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.

10. Will we get more money as an Academy?

Academies are allocated the same amount of funding per student, as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school.

Currently, prior to the school receiving funding from the Local Authority (LA), the LA top slices the allocated schools budget to provide a range of services to the school. As the MAT receives funding direct from the Government the Trust will be able to retain the part of the budget that the LA currently top slices and will be better able to target funding to the needs of the learners. Overall, as a group the schools are better able to control their part of the budget.

11. What are the risks of becoming an Academy?

A MAT has greater freedoms and flexibilities, however this does bring additional responsibilities including statutory duties as an Academy Trust, but our school is confident that we can manage these.

The conversion to Academy does take the school out of the control of the Local Authority (LA), however it does not exclude the school from accessing LA services, e.g. we can continue to receive HR, finance, educational psychology and other services from the local authority as long as the services provided by them represent value for money, if not the Trust has the freedom to invite other suppliers who represent best value for our schools.

There are risks associated with not changing to Academy status. At some stage in the future, any school might be influenced to become part of a larger Academy Chain. We believe that the ability to join a local MAT, under local direction, offers the best opportunity to sustain vibrant, successful local schools.

12. How will admissions to the school be affected?

Bradford Local Authority will continue to manage admissions.

13. Does becoming an Academy change the relationship with other schools and the community?

No, Academies must ensure that they continue to be at the heart of their community, collaborating and sharing facilities and expertise with other schools and the wider community.

14. Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and exclusions change?

No, responsibilities as an Academy in relation to SEND and exclusions will be just the same as they are now.

15. Can a child with a statement nominate an Academy as his or her school of choice?

Yes