

FAQs before joining a MAT (Multi Academy Trust)

General Questions

What is a MAT?

A MAT is a single charitable body which controls a group of academy schools within a trust.

- The trust's directors (or trustees) are responsible for overseeing the running of all the schools within the trust.
- The trust is accountable for all the schools within the MAT; however, before joining the MAT, the school and the academy trust agree on the matters that will be handled by the trust, e.g. legal services and financial auditing, and those that will remain the responsibility of the school governors.

Why is the school considering becoming part of a MAT?

- Being part of a MAT offers better opportunities to collaborate and share resources with the other academy schools.
- All the academy schools in the trust are working to one common goal, which will help drive the academy's standards and, ultimately, benefit the children.

What are the responsibilities of the MAT once the school has joined?

- These include:
 - Setting the strategic direction for all the schools within the MAT
 - Being responsible for the performance of the schools, including monitoring and, where necessary, intervening to improve performance
 - Ensuring that the right structure and organisation is in place to deliver the necessary high-standards for the children
 - Ensuring value for money, maximising available funds and identifying and securing additional finance and support when required
 - Challenging progress in all aspects of academy operations and providing support and guidance to achieve the highest outcomes
 - Leading involvement with parents and the wider community to promote the MAT and support the community.

What are the members of a MAT?

- Members are like the shareholders of a commercial company, they appoint trustees to run the MAT and are the only people able to amend the trust's Articles of Association – the Articles of Association is the document that sets out the framework to which the academy schools and the trust will work together.

What are the trustees of a MAT?

- The trustees oversee the day-to-day running of the MAT, determine what policies will be implemented and make the decisions that impact the entire trust.
- The trustees are the official statutory governing board for the MAT.

Will joining a MAT alter the school's existing ethos?

No, the school will retain its own values and ethos whilst working to the goals shared by the other academy schools within the MAT.

Will the school still be inspected by Ofsted?

- Yes, all academy schools are inspected by Ofsted using the same framework and time scales as maintained schools.
- The schools in the MAT will continue to be inspected separately; however, this may change in line with government policy.
- Ofsted will carry out inspections of the trust as whole.

Will the school name change?

- The only change to the school name will be the addition of RSA to reflect our move to the RSA Academy.

How has the MAT be chosen and who makes the final decision?

- The governing body of the school have consulted with staff members and parents in order to make an informed decision on whether or not to join the MAT.
- The governing board, in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), are going through formal due diligence on the RSA Academy before a decision is made.
- After collecting evidence and hearing the case for and against joining the MAT the final decision will be made by the governing body.

Parents' questions**How will this affect our children?**

- Children will not be affected by the transition period involved by joining the RSA. The school's SLT and the MAT's trustees will work together to ensure this transition is as seamless as possible. Once the transition period is over, the school will continue running as normal and we are confident children will not be affected.

How will parents be affected?

- Parents will start to see and hear more information about the RSA Academy.
- Parents may notice that correspondence sent by the Academy, e.g. letters and emails, will include the MAT's logo.

Will parents be able to share their views?

- Yes, the school, together with the RSA Academy will hold full consultation and information meetings which all parents, governors and staff members will be invited to join.

Will the uniform change?

- Current pupils' uniforms will not change; however, new pupils' uniforms will show a new logo for the school to reflect the school's change of name.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

- Like maintained schools, academies are required to comply with the Admissions and Admission Appeals Codes of Practice. Academies are also required to participate in LA coordination of admissions processes and the LA's Fair Access Protocol.

Will term times change?

- No, the term dates will stay the same as other local schools.

Will my child's SEND and / or Pupil Premium status and funding be affected?

- The school expects the funding to remain with pupils and to be spent on enhancing and assisting their learning.

If you have any more questions, or you have any concerns regarding the academy proposal, please contact us.

Sarah Boyce – Headteacher

Paul Johnson – Chair of Governors

Oldbury Park Primary School