

Academisation - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The information in this fact sheet is intended to help answer some of the questions that may arise regarding the conversion to academy status and joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

GENERAL FAQs

What is an academy?

An academy is a school that is directly funded by central government and independent of direct control by local government. Ofsted inspects academies under the same framework as maintained schools. It is the Government's ambition for all schools to be part of a MAT; in fact 85% of all secondary schools already have academy status.

What is a MAT?

A MAT is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and non-profit making which is formed to oversee a group of schools that are academies. The MAT is the employer of staff and holds the land and buildings of each academy in the Trust.

How does governance work?

There is a Board of Trustees who are ultimately responsible for the work of the trust and the academies. However, they devolve much of the responsibility for the running of the schools to individual academies and their respective local governing bodies. Each academy has its own governing body which works with the academy Headteacher to check the academy is making good progress and add additional challenge and scrutiny to the work of the school.

Are academies bound by the same rules and regulations as other schools?

Academies are required to follow the law and guidance on admissions, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and exclusions.

As an academy, will it still work with the Local Authority (LA)?

Academies are independent of the LA, but as part of a MAT we will continue working with the LA, other local schools and local partners.

