

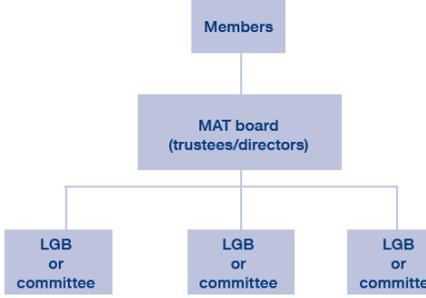
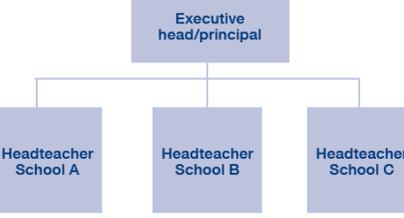
Multi-Academy Trusts - Frequently Asked Questions



Believe, Succeed, Together



Question	Answer
What is an academy?	A state funded independent school run by an academy trust.
How many academies are there nationally?	There are over 5000 academies in England. Nearly 20% of primary schools and 70% of secondary schools are academies.
Does a school have to convert to an academy?	The government's expectation is that all schools are committed to becoming academies by 2022. 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools are being encouraged to convert and underperforming schools are required to convert. The government is also currently drafting legislation to trigger conversion of all schools within a local authority in two specific circumstances: 1. If a local authority area reaches a 'critical mass' where there are so many academies that it cannot support its remaining schools. 2. Where the local authority consistently fails to meet a minimum performance threshold across its schools, demonstrating an inability to bring about meaningful school improvement.
Does a school receive financial assistance to convert to an academy?	A converting school receives an Academy Support Grant of £25,000.
Does a school receive more money as an academy?	Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as local authority maintained schools, but the funding comes directly from the Department for Education rather than the local authority. Academies receive additional funding in the form of the Education Services Grant.
What is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)?	An academy trust which has two or more academies under a single trust.
What are the benefits in becoming a MAT?	Sharing excellent practice in teaching and learning. Enhanced professional development of teaching and support staff. Greater opportunities for pupils to learn new skills and experience new activities. A richer curriculum through partnership working and shared resources. Attracting and retaining the most capable staff. Mutual support and challenge. Financial and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services.
What is the proposed name of the MAT?	Eastwood Park Academy Trust (EPAT) to reflect the partnership between the two schools.
Is one school being sponsored by another?	No. Both Eastwood and Bournemouth Park are rated 'Good' by Ofsted. Since Eastwood is already an academy, and will be converting its Single Academy Trust into a Multi-Academy Trust, it will be the Lead School within the partnership.

<p>What is the proposed governance structure within the MAT?</p>	 <pre> graph TD Members[Members] --> MATBoard["MAT board (trustees/directors)"] MATBoard --> LGB1["LGB or committee"] MATBoard --> LGB2["LGB or committee"] MATBoard --> LGB3["LGB or committee"] </pre>	<p>Between 3-5 members.</p> <p>Between 6-10 trustees.</p> <p>Between 5-11 governors</p>
<p>What is the role of the members?</p>	<p>Meet once a year at the AGM. Appoint and remove trustees. Amend and approve changes to the MAT’s Articles of Association.</p>	
<p>What is the role of the trustees?</p>	<p>Set the strategic direction. Create robust accountability. Ensure financial probity. Ensure quality of educational provision. Challenge and monitor performance. Ensure compliance with charity and company law. Ensure operation in accordance with the Funding Agreement.</p>	
<p>What is the role of the local governing bodies?</p>	<p>Support the vision of the MAT. Monitor and be accountable for standards. Support and challenge the leadership of the school.</p>	
<p>What is the proposed role of the Headteachers in the MAT?</p>	 <pre> graph TD ExecHead["Executive head/principal"] --> HTA["Headteacher School A"] ExecHead --> HTB["Headteacher School B"] ExecHead --> HTC["Headteacher School C"] </pre>	<p>The Headteacher/Principal of Eastwood would remain as the substantive Headteacher/Principal of his school (School A) but also assume the role of Executive Principal so there is a single point of accountability.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Bournemouth Park would remain as the substantive Headteacher of her school (School B).</p>
<p>Will other schools join the MAT?</p>	<p>Given the government’s expectation that all schools are committed to becoming academies by 2022, it is likely that other schools will join the MAT over time.</p>	
<p>Will schools that join the MAT be sponsored?</p>	<p>At this stage, a partnership with other schools in the form of a sponsor is not the preferred growth model for the MAT, however, this does not rule out the possibility in the future, providing that the capacity exists.</p>	

How large will the MAT grow?	The MAT would, in the first instance, consolidate its 'Starter Trust' status which, by definition, is 'a new MAT with up to 5 schools in one region'.
What will happen to the terms and conditions of staff employed at Eastwood?	The existing Single Academy Trust will be reconstituted as Multi-Academy Trust, so the legal entity will remain unchanged i.e. there will be no change to the terms and conditions of employment.
What will happen to the terms and conditions of staff employed at Bournemouth Park?	Currently, staff are employed by Southend Borough Council. Following conversion, staff will be employed by the MAT. Staff are protected by TUPE - Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 i.e. staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions.
Will staff have to work in both schools?	No, although collaboration is expected, and staff will be encouraged to avail professional development and/or training opportunities in both schools.
Will there be redundancies?	Funds will be 'top-sliced' to finance centralised services. At this stage, there are no planned redundancies.
Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?	The Eastwood Academy would retain its name. Bournemouth Park Primary School would become Bournemouth Park Academy. Both schools would be under the same trust - Eastwood Park Academy Trust (EPAT). There are no planned changes to either schools' logo or uniform.
Will there be changes to the curriculum?	Both schools will be responsible for their own curriculum development. Any changes that occur over time will be in the best interests of the pupils in each school.
Will the schools' responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs change?	No. Responsibilities in relation to SEN is covered by the same Code of Practice as with maintained schools.
How will admissions to the schools be affected?	The MAT would be the Admissions Authority for both schools. Each school would retain its current admission arrangements and any future changes would be in line with the School Admissions Code. The local authority will continue to coordinate the admissions process for both schools.
Will the school day change?	There are no plans to change the length or structure of the school day.
Will the MAT be free from the Ofsted inspection regime?	No. Academies are inspected in the same way as maintained schools and each school will continue to be inspected individually. The performance of both schools will continue to be monitored and, if there are signs of deterioration, or other factors likely to cause concern, these could trigger an inspection.
When will the MAT be formed?	The DfE have indicated that it could take 5 months, so completion date is scheduled for October 2016.