



Elm Tree Multi Academy Trust

FAQ's for parents

What is an academy?

Academies are independent state schools funded directly by the government (through the Education Skills Funding Agency) rather than via the Local Authority as maintained schools are. Academies have more freedom than other state schools, for example, over their finances and curriculum.

The number of schools who have converted to Academy status continues to increase; in Warwickshire 97% of secondary schools and 40% of primary schools are now Academies. The government hope all schools will be in a multi academy trust by 2030.

- Academies remain part of the community. They serve children and families in a particular area and retain the same responsibilities as any maintained school. They continue to provide free education in an inclusive environment
- The Headteacher in an academy continues to work in partnership with the governing body on strategic matters
- Academies are subject to the same laws on employment, equality, admissions and special needs as maintained schools
- Academies are required to follow the same rules over pupil exclusion as maintained schools
- Academies are subject to the same Ofsted Inspection regime as maintained schools
- Academies must operate a robust complaints policy in the same way as a maintained school
- Academies are subject to Freedom of Information requests, the same as a maintained school

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A MAT is the structure that allows more than one academy to work together under an academy trust order. The MAT is ultimately governed by one Trust Board composed of representatives from each school according to the skills of the trustees. Academies do not need to retain local governing bodies, however we feel that this is essential to best support the local needs of each school. Each school's Local Governing Body would report into the Trust Board.

Why become an Academy and join a Multi Academy Trust?

The Local Authority capacity to support schools is reducing, the national expectation is that schools will group together forming families of schools to best support the needs of the young people they serve.

Academy Trusts have a better shared understanding of both primary and secondary phases which will improve transition and potentially accelerate children's progress



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Greater opportunities to share best practice and professional development programmes, adding real value to the education of all children

Further develop the quality of teaching and learning across all schools

Better value for money and joint procurement; this will help participating schools navigate the tough financial climate without disadvantaging the quality of service for children

Governance with a clear focus on strategic development, leadership, teaching and learning, and accountability

Increased recruitment, retention and professional growth of staff

Why join Elm Tree Multi Academy Trust?

We have a long history of working effectively together, sharing similar values for our young people. Each year the vast majority of Year 6 student's transition to North Leamington School, we work with and for the same local families. Our primary goal is always to best support the young people within our local community, to that end our partnership will always share the same vision. Telford Junior School and North Leamington School are both schools within the ETMAT.

Our trust's vision is to support all, deliver excellence and enrich the lives of young people. Our academies are places of educational excellence, where all are challenged to succeed in a caring and supportive environment.

How will being part of MAT improve standards for our children?

Being a member of the MAT will enable schools to utilise the expertise of staff in each school to raise the educational achievement of all young people through collaborative working. Specialist staff and greater resource can be shared especially for the benefit of vulnerable families, students with Special Educational Needs but for all with greater access to more specialist resources.

How would becoming an Academy affect staff?

The staff will be employed by the Academy Trust rather than the Local Authority. Staff are legally protected and transfer under the same terms and conditions, including pensions. Parents and students will still have the same teachers and support staff, the Trust would have the ability to share expertise and resources across sites should it be required. Teachers and support staff will still be appointed by the local schools Headteacher, who intern will be appointed by the Trust board in consultation with the Local Governing Body.

Will admission arrangements change?

No, parents and carers would still apply through the common application process run by the local authority.

Would our school lose its local identity and unique strengths?

No, the school led by the Headteacher and local Governing Body would retain day to day management of the school and work collaboratively within the MAT setting the strategic direction. The school name, structure of the day, uniform, class organisation, provision and support for pupils etc. would remain under the control of the local school.



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Would our school have a Headteacher?

Yes, each school within the Trust would retain its own Headteacher working collaboratively with the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust Mr Lowdell, who will also continue as the Headteacher of North Leamington School.