



## Frequently Asked Questions – Parents and community

### **What benefit is there to joining Great Academies Education Trust with Dixons Academies Trust?**

A set of shared values lead to the foundation of both trusts. We work with like minded people following a common core vision. Both trusts believe in the benefits of close partnership working. We share a belief in the power of high-quality education and the growth of the children and young people within our schools means that the impact of a bigger trust, with its associated resource, would bring about improvements in all our schools. We have a firm commitment to providing the highest levels of care and academic achievement for all our children and young people, irrespective of their starting points or any disadvantage they may have.

We also believe increased partnership working and greater shared buying power would benefit all of our schools whilst allowing each to retain their own unique ethos within our own community. Our ambition is that all of our schools would benefit from shared networks and forums and systems as well as building on existing strong working relationships.

### **What would the leadership structure be in Dixons Academies Trust?**

The Trust would be led by a CEO (Chief Executive Officer). They would lead a multi-disciplinary team including the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) that would focus on ensuring school improvement and development as well as effective corporate function.

### **Financial implications - how financially secure is the MAT, what happens if one of the schools in the MAT gets into financial difficulty?**

Each Trust is currently financially secure and has its own reserve. Budget setting is always carried out well in advance so that any changes which need to be made can be implemented in good time to seek to achieve a balanced budget for every school. Budget monitoring would continue throughout the year by the Trust board, and they would receive monthly update reports.

### **What happens if a school in the MAT has a dip in standards?**

The purpose of a Trust is to provide educational support and increased capacity. The oversight from the Trust Board would mean that the trust would know about possible problems at an early stage and prevent this becoming significant through interventions and increased support. However, if this happened we would draw on existing capacity in the trust and where necessary external consultants.

The benefit of an expanded MAT would be the additional resource we were able to provide for school improvement. The strength of the teaching in the schools within the MAT mean that we have a great basis to learn from each other and adapt practice in line with what is evidence based best practice.

### **Does Ofsted consider each school on an individual basis or inspect the MAT as a whole?**

Ofsted considers each school on an individual basis currently but they would look at the MAT board as the accountable body for any individual school. It is likely MATs are soon going to be inspected as a whole too but we don't know how this would look at this stage.



## **What would happen to the uniform?**

We currently don't propose to make any changes to the current school uniforms of any of our schools.

## **Would the times of the school day and holidays change?**

We have no plans to change the times of the school day or the term dates for 2025-26. Any future changes would be subject to extensive consultation with parents and carers.

## **What happens next, what is the timescale of any change?**

Trustees would need to consider all of the feedback and outcome of this consultation process and then meet to discuss whether they wish to proceed.

Staff and parents would be updated at each stage and staff from Great Academies Education Trust would be part of a separate consultation process under the TUPE regulations which is more specific and would give them a further opportunity to ask questions and understand how, if at all, their role would be affected.