

@AcklamGrange



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20 October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Stakeholder Consultation – conversion to academy status as part of a multi-academy trust**

At Acklam Grange School, we are very proud of the achievements of our students and the growing successes of our school year on year. We work closely with other schools in the area both at secondary and primary phases. The Department for Education is now keen for schools to become academies and recent statements have indicated that schools should work more formally together in “multi-academy trusts”. It is important that we are proactive in responding to this agenda and we write to consult with you about our plans.

The Governors support our application to convert to an academy as part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) with Linthorpe Community Primary School.

### **Developing a Multi Academy Trust**

When Acklam Grange School and Linthorpe Community Primary School first looked at establishing a MAT, the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors collaborated over an extended period of time to scope a model that might support each phase and to shape the values, visions and objectives of the MAT.

As part of this process, we considered all options including becoming single ‘standalone’ academies, joining another Multi Academy Trust or developing our own cross-phase MAT. Building on the joint work that both schools have undertaken over the last 2-3 years – including shared governance, joint planning, improved support for transition, shared leadership support, we chose to develop a completely new MAT so we could build a collaborative model that meets all of our aspirations.

The MAT will be cross-phase from 2-16 years old. We feel that each phase (primary and secondary) can support, develop and challenge in order to provide outstanding provision and outcomes for all young people in the MAT.

### **Why are we considering forming a Multi-Academy Trust?**

We are two highly successful schools, who individually and more recently in collaboration, have improved outcomes for children, demonstrated financial efficiencies and provided exceptional professional development of staff. We want to secure this partnership and protect our schools going forward. The direction of the Department for Education policy is for all schools to become academies and become part of a multi-academy trust. Rather than join an existing trust and potentially losing some of our unique character, we want to be the leaders in this and create our own MAT. By creating our own MAT now, we would get to lead the way and keep our characteristics and the huge success that we have had. This is the opportunity to shape, control and future-proof our schools.

As part of our consultation, we are keen to hear your views. The period of consultation will open on:  
**Friday 20 October and close at 3.30 pm on Friday 24 November 2017.**

# Acklam Grange School

Lodore Grove, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 8PB T: 01642 277700 W: [www.acklamgrange.org.uk](http://www.acklamgrange.org.uk)

We encourage you to present your support, views, questions and concerns. All submissions received by **Friday 24 November 2017** will be considered at a meeting of each full Governing Body. Please submit your views either:

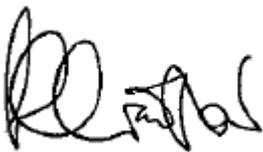
- **By email**  
AcademyMATconsultation@acklamgrange.org.uk email
- **In writing to**  
**'Academy MAT Consultation'**  
Acklam Grange School, Lodore Grove, Middlesbrough TS5 8PB
- **At our Stakeholder/Parent Information Evening**  
Tuesday 14 November at 6.00pm in the Performance Hall
- **By appointment with Executive Headteacher**  
At Acklam Grange School – Andrea Crawshaw

## What happens next?

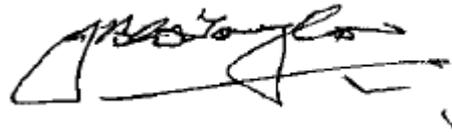
From Friday 20 October, there will be more information available on the school website including a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and you are encouraged to send your questions, concerns and opinions via methods detailed above i.e. by email, in writing, by attending the Stakeholder/Parent Information Evening or by booking an appointment to meet with me. We will publish your views and responses as appropriate, on our website and consider the whole as a full Governing Body before we reach our final decision. **The deadline for support, views, questions and concerns is Friday 24 November 2017 at 3.30pm.**

Throughout the consultation period and beyond, the Governing Body and Academy/MAT Steering Group will continue to discuss and agree further details of the MAT. Following consultation, the Governing Body will meet, consider all of the information and agree the way forward. Should the decision be to continue, the formal academy conversion is likely to take effect in the spring term 2018.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Crawshaw  
Executive Headteacher  
Acklam Grange School



Mr J B D Taylor  
Chair of Governors  
Acklam Grange School

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## What is an Academy?

An academy is an independent state school that is run by an Academy Trust, a legal body operating similarly to a charity. Whilst the academy is funded directly by the Government, it is no longer run by the Local Authority. This means that academies have more freedom and control over the school curriculum, hours, and term dates.

The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the academy.

## What is a Multi-Academy Trust? (MAT)

A Multi-Academy Trust is a legal entity that governs a group of schools through a single set of trustees. It is set up by a group of schools, usually a local collaboration, that share a common ethos and vision.

A MAT is accountable for all academies within the group.

Academies are answerable to the Trustees and to the Department for Education (DfE) rather than to the Local Authority.

A MAT is a charitable company, limited by guarantee. This means that it is registered at Companies House. The MAT is the employer and holder of land titles.

As the name suggests, a MAT incorporates a number of academies, governed by a single board of directors. Although the board of trustees has overall responsibility for each academy, it can choose to have committees for each academy, commonly referred to as Local Councils (LCs). The level of delegation from the board to these Local Councils can vary under a Scheme of Delegation, allowing the board of trustees to delegate decision making at a local level. The board of trustees usually make strategic, operational decisions affecting all of the academies whereas the LC tends to make day to day decisions about the respective academy, much like a Governing Body for a single school. Where there are LCs, governors on LCs are not directors or trustees (unless they also sit on the trust board).

The government's vision is for all schools to become academies, although the aim for all schools to become academies by 2020 is no longer policy.

A Multi-Academy Trust allows the academies to support each other in developing and sharing best practice in teaching as well as sharing the high quality staff and resources. The Local Council is responsible to the Trust Board, who is in turn responsible to the DfE.

For more information and FAQs, please visit the school website:

<http://www.acklamgrange.org.uk/academy-multi-academy-trust-consultation>