

Why become a Multi-Academy Trust 'MAT'?



Consultation Day – Howitt
Primary 26th June 2018

Purpose of this meeting

- To explain the advantages/disadvantages of becoming a MAT and our reasoning
- An opportunity to ask questions and to hear your views

Welcome from the Headteacher

- * Process so far for this school
- * Why Embark?

Our Schools

- * Aldercar Infant and Nursery School
- * Heath Primary School
- * Horsley Woodhouse Primary School
- * Howitt Community Primary
- * Kilburn Junior School
- * Longford C of E Primary School
- * Richardson Endowed Primary School

What is a MAT?

- * A group of schools who have **formally collaborated** and receive their **funding directly from the government** (as opposed to a maintained school who receive their funding from a Local Authority -with a 'top slice' deducted)
- * MAT governance structure is the same as for a **charity, with a Board of Trustees to oversee the running of the MAT and Local Governing Boards** who focus on specific school improvement

Our Vision

To create 'stand out' schools at the heart of their communities.



Outstanding = Standing Out



Our Core Purpose

To develop well rounded children with the skills to make a difference in our ever-changing world



Core Beliefs

Family



Integrity



Teamwork



Success



The Embark Award



Our Members

- * Cannon David Channon – CEO of Derby Diocesan MAT and Director of Education
- * Dr Mohammed Jakara – Dean of Education at University of Derby
- * Andrew Allsopp – Founder and Director of Morley Hayes, very successful businessman.
- * Paul Drummond – Director of HR company, FCIPD.
- * Sarah Armitage – National Leader of Governance

Our Trustees

- * Dr Deborah Outhwaite – Professor at Warwick University.
- * Baby J – Music producer and owns a company Baby People that works with disadvantaged young people.
- * John White – retired Operations Manager with a specialism in Health and Safety.
- * Ian Paxton – IT and systems specialist with excellent experience of governance.

Our Trustees

- * Eleanor Headley – diverse career over 25 years of experience. Integrated Centre Leader, Degrees in Law and International Management.
- * Alix Round – Senior account manager at Experian. Key strengths in data, information and analysis. Wealth of experience in school governance role.
- * Sarah Armitage – National Leader of Governance and strong HR background. Also, developing leadership teams and coaching.
- * Matthew Crawford – National Leader of Education. 11 years as a school leader and strong track record in school improvement.

Review of current landscape

- * Education world is continuing to change
- * Movement across Derbyshire, many schools now considering their options
- * It is looking likely still that standalone Primary Schools will become things of past in next 5 years, being isolated is not good
- * Academy agenda is not going away
- * Building local collaborations is the way forward
- * Want to lead the way with this and feel in control, choosing right path for our children and communities in line with our Vision, Purpose and Core Beliefs

Why become a MAT?

There are many advantages of being in a MAT including:

- * Research suggests working together as a group of schools **raises standards**
- * Economic advantages, such as **centralised services** and the ability to focus funds where they are needed
- * The possibility of establishing **succession planning** programmes for staff, and thereby **retaining and developing good staff** who may otherwise have moved on
- * **Sharing best practice** between schools

Why become a MAT?

- * School leader and teachers can share thinking and planning, helping to **spread expertise**
- * Governors and trustees can **work more strategically**, especially during challenging times
- * Groups of schools can find it easier to find and **fund specialist expertise** (both specialist teachers and specialists in areas such as data analysis, finance, health and safety)
- * **Shared professional development** can more easily be arranged and afforded

Why become a MAT?

- * Economies of scale can help schools **cope better with shrinking budgets**
- * Being able to **create new posts** across the MAT that would not have been possible in any one individual school, for example, speech therapy
- * Structure leaves **Headteachers to focus on teaching and learning**
- * Pupils could have access to more **facilities and extra-curricular activities**

Why become a MAT?

- * **Finance and income into school budgets** – there is a huge range of grants available to MATs that aren't to LA maintained schools
- * **Local Authority support decreasing**
- * Difficulty in growing a Federation under the Local Authority so far, even though schools are expressing an interest
- * Conversion with a group of schools all at one time, brings benefit of **quicker growth and realisation of the above benefits, less disruption** through the change in the long run

Things to consider – possible disadvantages?

- * Local governing bodies may feel redundant if their authority to make decisions is taken away and they have no influence over the direction of the MAT as a whole
- * Individual schools may be adversely affected by decisions which benefit the MAT as a whole
- * MATs can become overly inward looking if individual schools do not maintain connections with, for example, their LAs governor services and other sources of external advice.

Where are we now?



Questions & Next Steps

