

Multi Academy Trust FAQs - stakeholders

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A MAT is a single charitable entity which controls a group of academies within the trust. The trust's directors (or trustees) are responsible for overseeing the running of all the academies within the trust. The trust is accountable for all the academies within the MAT; however, before joining the MAT, John Kyrle High School (JKHS) and Heart of Mercia Trust will agree on the matters that would be handled by the trust, e.g. legal services and financial auditing, and those that will remain the responsibility of the local governing board.

What schools/colleges are in the Heart of Mercia Trust?

Currently, the Heart of Mercia Trust consists of Hereford 6th Form College, Worcester 6th Form College and King Edward's 6th Form College, it is now wanting to develop the trust with secondary partners.

Is there a possibility other schools will join the Heart of Mercia Trust in the future?

Yes, this is already part of the Heart of Mercia's plans and is to be welcomed. School to school support and accountability is an important benefit of being part of the MAT.

Who will be responsible for running our school?

The Heart of Mercia will have a Board of Directors including individuals from the Local Governing Bodies of all its institutions. The Trust Board will delegate many powers to a Local Governing Board (LGB), which will have a role similar to that of the current School Governing Trust Board. These powers will be agreed by Governors/Trustees from all colleges and schools within the MAT. The vast majority of Governors are likely to be the same people as now.

Will parents still be represented on the governing body?

Yes. The Local Governing Board will have the need for its immediate stakeholders to be involved in the running of their local school.

How will parents be affected?

- Parents will not be affected; however, they may start to see and hear more information about the MAT.
- Parents may notice that correspondence sent by the academy, e.g. letters and emails, will include the MAT's logo.

What are the responsibilities of the MAT?

The main responsibilities of the MAT include:

- Setting the strategic direction for all the academies within the trust;
- Being responsible for the performance of the academies, including monitoring and, where necessary, intervening to improve performance;
- Ensuring that the right structure and organisation is in place to deliver the necessary high-standards for pupils;



- Ensuring value for money, maximising available funds and identifying and securing additional finance and support when required;
- Challenging progress in all aspects of academy operations and providing support and guidance to achieve the highest outcomes; and
- Leading involvement with parents and the wider community to promote the MAT and support the community.

Will conversion alter John Kyrle’s existing ethos?

No. It has been very important to the Governing Body to identify a MAT that allows individual and local character and ethos. The Heart of Mercia’s values are ‘educational excellence’, ‘creating an enjoyable experience’, ensuring students are ready for the real world and sustainability. These align well with our values and the Governing Body judge that JKHS can maintain and grow its own ethos within this framework.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

JKHS currently deals with its own admission arrangements. Legally, the Heart of Mercia multi academy trust will become the admissions authority for JKHS. However, the admissions arrangements will all be delegated to the local governing body, and the school would also still be bound by the national Admissions Code, Admissions Appeals Code and the Herefordshire Council Admissions process.

Will JKHS still be inspected by Ofsted?

- Yes, all academies are inspected by Ofsted using the same framework and timescales as single academy trusts and maintained schools.
- The academies in the MAT will continue to be inspected separately; however, this may change in line with government policy.
- Ofsted will also carry out inspections of the trust as whole.

Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and exclusions change? No. Responsibilities as an Academy in relation to SEND and exclusions will be just the same as they are now.

Will term times change?

No, we will continue to use Herefordshire LA’s term dates and stay the same as other local schools. We understand how important this is to families with children at more than one school.

Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?

No. All of these will remain the same.

Will the school lose its financial independence and its ability to manage its own finances?

All institutions within Heart of Mercia are responsible for managing their own finances. However, there will be MAT oversight of the finances.



What is the timescale if the proposal goes ahead?

Subject to due diligence and legal work the intention is for JKHS to become part of Heart of Mercia Trust on 1st September 2023.

Who makes the final decision?

- The governing board will consult with staff members, parents and local residents in order to make an informed decision on whether or not to join the MAT.
- After collecting evidence the final decision will be made by the governing board.

How can I find out more?

A meeting will be held at JKHS on Monday 22nd May at 5:00pm for all stakeholders. We encourage you to attend if you have any questions, or simply want to learn more.

There is also more information about multi academies trust on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-academy-trusts-establishing-and-developing-your-trust>

If you are unable to find the answer to your question with the FAQs, or on the DfE website, and cannot attend the meeting on Monday 22nd May, please email Christine Bryan, Business and Finance Director (c.bryan@jkhs.org.uk) who will try to assist you.

