

Converting to an Academy: Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we looking to for a multi academy trust?

What is a multi academy trust?

Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) oversee multiple academies rather than one school under one unified governance structure. MATs facilitate improved collaboration, resource-sharing, and standardised policies amongst its member academies. While each academy maintains most of its autonomy, the central trust board provides an element of strategic direction. This model aims to enhance educational outcomes and operational efficiency through a network of academies working together.

Is every academy within a multi-academy trust identical?

Not necessarily. While some multi-academy trusts may adopt a more standardised approach, our local schools came together to establish the Broadway Family Trust with a strong commitment to preserving the unique identity of each school. This reflects our dedication to the values and significance of our local community.

When will the changes take place?

The process is a complicated one and will take some time to complete. If we go ahead then we are aiming to make the final decision later this term. The date for the creation of the MAT is currently planned for the end of 2024, but this could change. The academy's trust board will make the final decision as to whether a school converts to multi academy trust status.

What day-to-day changes will happen?

Will a move to being in a MAT mean a new name for the schools?

No. The academy will continue to be called Joseph Leckie Academy.

Will a proposed new academy have a new uniform?

No. Parents will not need to buy a new uniform.

What will be the impact on our children with special needs?

There will be no change to the level of support provided, in fact, the intention is to increase the level of support offered through becoming a MAT. Joseph Leckie Academy will continue to recognise that every child has the right to be included as a valued, respected and equal member of the academy community.

Will students' education be disrupted by a transition to multi academy trust status?

No. If the Academy Trust is approved to go ahead, it will do so with minimal disruption to the staff and students at individual academy level. Most of the changes will take place behind the scenes by a dedicated team from the Broadway Family Trust, who have experience in this process.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG

Tel: 01922 721071

Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook

What will it mean for our academy finances?

Changing to become part of a MAT will not be to our detriment financially. However, any decision is not motivated by money. Funding is available to cover the costs of the MAT establishment process itself, which is provided by central government once the decision has been approved. We will have opportunities to support other schools and to benefit financially from doing so. In addition, the Trust Board has access to capacity funding from the Department for Education as well as capital funding on an annual basis. Collaboration such as central procurement processes will help deliver financial benefits such as economies of scale.

What will this mean for Teachers and Staff?

As we are already an academy, these will remain unchanged.

What will this mean for standards?

Does the Trust have the capacity to support our educational standards?

The Trust will establish its own school improvement capacity for those schools choosing to become an academy which includes a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a Director of School Improvement for Primary Schools. As the Trust develops this improvement team will grow. Collectively, the team is experienced and qualified to support and challenge schools in data analysis, teaching, behaviour management, safeguarding, students', moral, social and cultural development, special educational needs and disabilities, and leadership and management. The school improvement package will include support and challenge for governance and the team are able to draw on further support from National Leaders in Governance as appropriate.

How will an academy raise achievement?

The whole structure of Broadway Family Trust has been designed to challenge and support academies in equal measure. We would receive a specified number of days of school improvement support from a school improvement professional. This is significantly more than we currently receive from the LA. These visits are not inspections but an opportunity for senior leaders to benchmark their judgments through shared lesson observation, work scrutiny, analysis of data, supported self-evaluation and school improvement planning. Indeed, the outcome of these visits will confirm the development priorities of the school. As would be expected, the Trust will rapidly provide additional support and positive intervention in any of their schools that are underperforming or on a downward trajectory based on OFSTED criteria.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG

Tel: 01922 721071

Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook