

Proposed Conversion to a MAT; frequently asked questions

11-03-16

<p>1. How will parents be informed, and reassured about the continuing high quality of education?</p>	<p>We intend to offer an open meeting for parents on Wednesday 13th April where parents can ask questions or express concerns. We will repeat this during the formal consultation period. We will aim to keep parents well informed of the process of the application. At all stages we will assure parents that continuation of high quality education for students at Kelvin will be the top priority.</p>
<p>2. Why are we not planning to create a MAT with our feeder primaries?</p>	<p>We get 75% of our pupils from 5 local primaries. One is an ER primary and the ER is generally not currently encouraging academisation (though the most recent information I have suggests this picture is rapidly changing). One is with AET one of the biggest academy chains. Whilst we would not rule out taking this primary on at a later stage, we do not currently know the process that is involved in a school moving away from its current sponsor to a different one. The remaining three are all in ICA, a local primary Umbrella Trust</p>
<p>3. What is the longer term vision for our MAT?</p>	<p>We envisage the MAT starting out in 'Phase 1' with 5 schools, then in 'Phase 2' growing but slowly. In the longer term, we would hope that the MAT could play an important role in shaping the national Cooperative schools movement to be focused securely on school improvement and successful outcomes for pupils. The vision is a MAT that ensures its schools are successful with outstanding outcomes and is based on ethical leadership and strong and clearly expressed ethical values.</p>
<p>4. How would you ensure the continuity of the quality of teaching and care provided by Kelvin Hall to its pupils if we are also focussed on other schools?</p>	<p>This has to be the very first priority for the MAT. This is a good time for us to make the move to academy status. Our school budget is healthy and we have already made provision in staffing for 2015-2016 to build extra capacity. This means that we have staff who have significant time allocated on their timetable (ie when they are not timetable to teach KH groups) which can be used for school improvement work without impact on KH pupils. We also have very strong middle leaders who are eager to take on further responsibility. With careful and considered leadership and sensible appointments made for next year, we believe we will be in an even better position in 2016-2017. Having additional responsibilities and staff development to offer will enable us to recruit and retain staff more easily. This can only be a benefit to KH pupils.</p>
<p>5. Will there be additional grants and funding sources available to Kelvin Hall as a MAT?</p>	<p>There will be funding for each school to cover conversion costs. Thereafter, there may be funding available for development of primary MAT provision or potentially funding for sponsoring a school in need.</p>
<p>6. What would happen regarding the Admissions Policy?</p>	<p>We will need to find out to what extent the MAT will need a common admissions policy, but our current understanding is that this can still be determined by individual schools. Our feeling is that we should have a common policy that fits with Cooperative (ie community) values.</p>

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<p>7. What is the process for converting to academy status?</p>	<p>The conversion process involves at least five elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the setting up of a charitable company known as the academy trust with memorandum and articles of association• putting in place a funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for the running and funding of the academy school(s)• transferring the employment of the staff of the school(s) from the Foundation Trust (in Kelvin Hall's case) to the academy trust in accordance with TUPE• negotiating a commercial transfer agreement for the transfer of assets and contracts of the school(s) from the local authority/foundation trust to the academy trust• arranging for the academy trust to have use of the land and buildings of the school(s) - all founder members of the proposed MAT are currently Cooperative Trust schools – therefore the freehold of the land will be transferred from the current foundation to the academy trust so that the academy trust will be the outright owner of the land.
<p>8. When is the last point at which the school can change its mind about conversion?</p>	<p>A school can change its mind right up to the point where documents are sent to the Secretary of State for signature, which is usually during the last two weeks before planned conversion date.</p>
<p>9. What are the governance arrangements in a MAT?</p>	<p>Like any academy trust, the MAT will have a group of members who will have certain powers reserved to them, including in most cases, the power to appoint some of the directors. The board of directors has responsibility for all of the academies operated by the MAT. The MAT board is also required to establish a 'local governing body' for each academy.</p>