

Becoming a Multi Academy Trust

Frequently asked Questions & Answers

Will the school day or term dates change?

Although Academy status would mean the Aspire Schools would have complete autonomy on these decisions, we are aware parents have children in different Schools as do Staff and there are no plans to change.

Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) change?

No, responsibilities as an Academy in relation to SEND will be just the same as they are now.

Can Parents/Carers with a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) nominate an Academy as their first choice school?

Yes, schools converting to Academy status can retain the admissions criteria they currently use. We have no plans to change this. These arrangements and related processes must at all times comply with the Schools Admissions Code.

Will children with Special Needs get the same level of support in School as they have now?

Yes, at least as good a level of support as they receive now.

Will class sizes change / go up?

Not as a direct result of becoming an Academy. Other factors such as increase in catchment area population may cause class sizes to rise, but being an Academy will enable the schools to plan their own response to this issue and limit class sizes as deemed appropriate.

Will the same subjects be on offer?

Yes. being an Academy means that the Governing Board can choose its own curriculum, rather than being dictated to by others. This will allow greater flexibility for subject area development. We have developed our own curriculum and our curriculum is evolving we have no plans to change this approach.

Will you change the entry criteria?

Will you become selective in choosing pupils?

Will you change the catchment area?

All Academies are required to adopt clear and fair admission arrangements in line with the admissions law and the School Admissions Code. When a School / Federation converts to become an Academy, it will be the admission authority and responsible for its own admission arrangements. This means the Academy will need to manage its own admission process. It will involve periodic consultation and regularly publishing the Academy's admission arrangements. Applications for school places will still be made to the Local Authority, who will notify the Academy of the applications accordingly.

If there are more Academies, how do local parents have a fair choice of school?

Local Authority's continue to have overall responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient places to meet demand locally and all Academies are required to participate in the local coordination of admissions.

Applications for school places are made to the Local Authority, who will notify the Academy of the application.

Will parents have to start paying for clubs etc?

No, there will be no additional charges other than what we already charge for now.

Will you change the age range?

There are no plans at this time to change the range of provision.

Will the school have enough money to pay for all the services it needs?

Yes; the bottom line is that we will not be financially disadvantaged by a move to Academy status. Academies receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority plus additional money to cover the services no longer provided for them by the Local Authority. The Government is clear that becoming an Academy should not bring financial advantage or disadvantage to a school. However, Academies have greater freedom on how they use their budgets, alongside the other freedoms that they enjoy.

Will the individual Schools names change?

The Aspire Federation will become The Aspire Trust and the individual Schools names will remain the same.

Will the uniform change?

The only change to the uniform will be the Aspire Trust name on one badge not the Aspire Federation. Students will still be able to wear the current badges until parents normally buy new uniform. Any new items purchased would then contain the new Academy Trust name on the badge.