



Join the Little Acorn Multi Academy Trust  
A partnership of primary schools

- The Trust's declared purpose is to improve and enhance the educational opportunities, experience and outcomes for children in the early years and primary phase of education.
- The Little Acorn MAT is made up exclusively of primary schools and children's centres.
- The work of the Trust is driven by the distinctive needs of children and their families in the early years and primary phase of education.
- The Trust believes that each school has its own distinctive ethos and commits to preserving the unique characteristics of every school when they convert and join the Trust.
- All schools within the Trust are seen as willing partners who have actively chosen to join a Trust which aims to nurture a high degree of consensus and commitment within the group.
- All schools are considered equal partners in the enterprise. Working collaboratively for mutual benefit is key to the success of individual schools.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

After meeting with some local Head Teachers, here are the answers to some of the information frequently requested.

### **Is there still a role for governors?**

The role of local governors in supporting a school and acting as a critical friend is invaluable. Each school will continue to have a Local Governing Body working closely with its school and which reports to the Directors of the MAT. The Local Governing Body has clear Terms of Reference and can be represented on the Board of Directors of the Trust.

### **Will the role of the Head Teacher change? What is the role of the Chief Executive Officer?**

In each school the Head Teacher will continue to lead and manage the running and development of the school. As now, the Head Teacher is accountable for the school's performance. The CEO works with Local Governing Bodies and Senior Leadership Teams to support, challenge, motivate and empower them to attain ambitious outcomes for learners, teachers and the community they serve. Within the MAT there is a Leaders Forum made up of the CEO, Head Teachers and their Deputies which meets regularly to focus on developing teaching and learning and to share expertise and concerns.

### **How will joining a MAT affect our staff?**

A core commitment of the MAT is to the personal and professional development of all its staff. The MAT creates opportunities for CPD through sharing knowledge and expertise and collegiate collaboration within and across schools. Within a MAT all staff are employed by the Little Acorn Trust. Pre-existing employment terms, conditions and pensions are honoured by the Trust.

### **Do all schools in the Little Acorn MAT look alike and have to run the same way?**

The Trust believes that each school has a unique history and identity. It is important that the character of each school is protected to be most effective in its own community. Schools are free to develop as distinctive communities with their own uniform and curriculum. Outwardly there will be no visible change except that the main signage will state that the school is part of the Little Acorn Trust.

### **How much control does the school have over its finances?**

The Little Acorn Trust believes that one of the advantages of a MAT is that schools can be free to focus on their own development of their core function. A small proportion (3-5%) of each school's budget is allocated to fund central administration to fund central functions including the CEO, business management and finance. Each school has control of its own budget and is accountable to the Trust for how it is spent. Schools within the MAT are not expected to directly support each other financially.

For further information please contact: Robert Lane - Executive Head Teacher, Four Acres Academy, Four Acres, Bristol, BS13 8RB Tel. 01179030474 Email: [head.four.acres.p@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:head.four.acres.p@bristol-schools.uk)  
Little Acorn Trust (Company No.920 7180)