

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a Multi Academy Trust?

A Multi Academy Trust, also known as MAT, is a charity that runs more than 1 school, receiving it's funding from the Department of Education. Each school within the Trust has academy status, although we still be known as Nazeing Primary School.

2. Are other schools joining MATs?

Yes. MATs have, for several years now, been the government's preferred vehicle for school improvement, and so there is a push to ensure that more schools become academies and join MATs in the future. This is because it enables schools to work in partnership with other school to develop best practice and create a more efficient service delivery for schools within the MAT. Academisation brings a number of benefits to pupils, which is why so many schools are choosing to take this route. Looking at the landscape of schools within Harlow and Epping, 77% of primary schools have already converted to academies.

3. Why are we looking to join a MAT?

We believe that joining Scholars' Education Trust is the right move for our school, its pupils and the wider community which we serve. It will offer us a range of benefits, such as:

- Giving us the scale to ensure services across the school are delivered at a better cost allowing us to spend more of our budget on your child's education – from finance and resources, to capital, HR and marketing. This allows our school to concentrate even more of our efforts and energies on ensuring your child/(ren) are getting the best education possible.
- Enabling us to have a network of schools which is wider than our current one, and allowing us to grow more collaborative partnerships with the local schools within the Trust. We have always been keen to learn from others and share our strengths and this approach will enable us to further develop our partnerships with like-minded schools and their leaders.
- Improved recruitment and retention of high quality staff members. Becoming a member of a Trust enables significant progression opportunities for staff, which helps us to retain our best employees, and also develop future leaders. As part of a Trust we will also have access to enhanced Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for staff, giving everyone the opportunity to further develop themselves.

4. Why have we chosen Scholar's Education Trust?

As a well-established MAT, Scholars' Education Trust has shown that it can provide a fantastic range of improvement opportunities and additional services for its existing schools. As Governors, we have identified that being part of the Scholars' Education Trust will really benefit our children and families whilst allowing us to maintain everything special and unique about our school. The ACE shared values of the Scholars' Education Trust family are closely aligned with our school ethos, they are:

- Achievement in academic, artistic, sporting, cultural and other forms with a focus on teaching and learning.
- Care for students, staff and others beyond the school community.
- Excellence in standards, manners, honesty, personal integrity and uniform.

5. Will there be changes to our school?

Scholars' Education Trust is clear that its vision is for schools to retain their sense of place and their local community identities, so there wouldn't be any costly branding changes or

uniform changes. The changes will be centred around our school having even greater opportunities for the children and enriching the curriculum further. The recruitment of staff will remain the responsibility of the school's leaders along with the day-to-day running of the school.

6. When is this proposed to happen?

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the proposal is to join Scholars' Education Trust from 1st September 2024.