



Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is a multi-academy trust?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a charitable trust which is responsible for the operation of more than one academy.

The people in charge of running the Multi-Academy Trust are the company directors, who are responsible for strategic oversight and management. They are also charity trustees and must comply with duties under company law, charity law and education law to promote the success of the academy trust. They determine the policies of the trust, monitor the effectiveness of each academy within the MAT, manage central services where appropriate and report to the Secretary of State. They work to ensure that each academy is performing to the best of its ability and gets the support it requires. The role of the Members of the MAT is largely limited to appointing and removing directors and making key decisions such as amendments to the Articles of Association and changing the name of the academy trust.

Each of the academies in the trust usually has its own local governing body which has authority delegated to it by the Trust Board.

2. What was the selection process in choosing a MAT?

When choosing a MAT, Church of England schools are expected to choose from one of the local church MATs. Some of these MATs also include community (non-church) schools. Consequently, there were five MATs from which we were able to choose:

- Archway Learning Trust
- Aspire Multi-Academy Trust
- Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust
- Minster Trust for Education
- Transform Trust

Governors have undertaken a range of activities over the last 18 months. This includes:

- Undertaking background research, including attending a presentation from the Diocesan Director of Education, so that governors could understand the benefits of academisation, what we would want from a MAT and the characteristics of the school that we would not want to lose.
- Carrying out 'desktop' due diligence activities on each of the five MATs based on publicly available information (e.g. websites, performance tables and other Department for Education information, Ofsted reports, financial statements)
- Visiting schools that are members of the shortlisted MATs to see the schools in action, speak to headteachers, to school staff, to trust staff and to governors.
- Utilising all the evidence gathered to identify a preferred MAT

The Governing Body has deliberately taken time to carry out this process. This was to ensure it was a thorough process and resulted in the right decision. The school continues to be in a position of strength, having been judged as a good school by Ofsted in January 2022. The Governing Body is keen to ensure that it remains that way.



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3. Who are Archway Learning Trust?

Please follow the link below to find out more about the Archway Learning Trust:
www.archwaytrust.co.uk

4. Why Archway Learning Trust?

The Governing Body is keen to belong to a MAT with a clear strategic direction and Christian vision and values like those at Bramcote C of E Primary. It is important that there are opportunities for development at all levels to secure even higher achievements, while still retaining a strong self-identity and autonomy in key areas.

The Governors believe on balance that Bramcote C of E Primary's needs would be best served by joining the Archway Learning Trust because of:

- the structured support that will add to and improve what Bramcote C of E Primary currently has achieved
- the continuous professional development (CPD) and diverse range of high achieving schools, which will enable us to improve in more areas
- the opportunity to contribute to growing the primary arm of the MAT.
- the opportunity to contribute to the development of other Trust schools, as a high achieving, outward facing school.
- being listened to – leading to the bespoke nature of support at all levels.
- the capacity of the Central Team in all areas (safeguarding, school improvement, HR, Finance, IT)
- the support and challenge for the governing body

5. Will we continue to work with other local schools?

Yes, BCE, Trowell and St John's have worked as an informal collaboration for a number of years. All three schools are intending to strengthen this link by joining Archway Learning Trust.

6. Whose decision is it whether or not to join a MAT?

The decision to join a MAT and which MAT to join rests with the Governing Body, with approval also being needed from the Diocese and the Regional Director, who acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

7. Who will the Governing Body be consulting?

The Governing Body will be consulting with all staff at the school, parents and various other stakeholders, other local schools and other community members.

8. How can I share my views?

You can share your views through the following means:

- **Online Form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/5FaRN8c8hF>
- Letters: marked 'Private and Confidential – MAT Consultation' and handed into the school office (or posted) to: Bramcote C of E Primary School, Hanley Ave, Bramcote NG9 3HE.



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9. The question I want to ask is not in the FAQ document. How can I ask my question and get an answer?

Questions can be submitted through the online form or by letter as described above. Questions can also be asked at the in-person events for parents

10. Can other schools join the MAT at a later date?

Yes, other schools can join at a later date. However, at the early stage of growth, Bramcote C of E Primary can be influential in the future growth of the primary arm of the MAT.

11. What changes will parent/carers see?

There will be very little visible change as a direct result of joining Archway Learning Trust, with the school continuing in much the same way as it does now on a day-to-day basis. Over time, the opportunities that being part of a MAT brings will enhance the opportunities for children.