



## **Proposal for setting up a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)**

The national context for schools continues to promote the proposal for schools to convert to be Academies. Whilst the deadline of all schools to be an Academy by 2022 has been dropped, the government has reaffirmed its “continued determination to see all schools become academies”.

Locally we have seen the rise of two academy trusts forming, with the ‘Enfield Learning Trust and The Ivy Academy’. The Enfield Learning Trust was set up in September 2016 with Bowes, Chesterfield and Hazelbury Primary schools. Their business model is to have 15 schools in their MAT with a firm commitment to providing a MAT which will include schools in the local area. Carterhatch Junior School and Grange Park Primary school have joined this year.

The Ivy Trust includes Lavender and Brimsdown Primary schools and they have just been joined by Eastfield Primary School. They also have a commitment to growing and including more schools in their Trust.

Several Headteachers and Governors in the Local Authority have been approached by the above Academies to join and there is also a suggestion that a group of Governors are also looking into setting up their own group of schools as a MAT.

As the Headteacher of Alma Primary School I feel that it is now essential for the school to move forward and set up our own MAT. We have been working with two other local primary schools to join together to form a multi-academy trust that we feel will enable Alma Primary to maintain its own unique identity. We have worked hard to achieve success at Alma and are keen to protect and build on those achievements. Working with schools who share our own vision, values and ethos will provide us with the opportunity to further improve. Both Worcesters and Keys Meadow are successful schools – Worcesters is a National Support School and Keys Meadow is a school we have worked with closely for a number of years.

After considering the Academisation agenda for the last 2 years, it is now time for the Governing Body to consider the advantages for us as a school in moving in this direction.

- School finances are increasingly stretched with all schools in the country facing real term cuts to our budgets; due to additional contributions to pensions, superannuation and national insurance contributions. As an Academy we would benefit from an additional £77.00 per pupil which is currently top sliced to run central services in the Local Authority. This would support us in maintaining the high level of quality teaching we have at Alma with a firm commitment to ensuring better outcomes for all of our pupils.
- Access to grants for capital projects and school improvement funds are all going through the academies route. Academies have access to ‘Conditional Improvement Funds’ to support capital works or refurbishment. Applications can be made for funding for 2 capital projects each year.
- The recruitment of teachers is a growing concern for all schools. As a MAT, we would be able to offer career development opportunities for existing staff ensuring that we retain the very

best teachers. School Leaders, teachers and other staff would have the opportunity to work across more than one school, enabling us to find different solutions to recruitment challenges.

- We would have the capacity with staff across the schools to support other schools to improve outcomes for all children in Enfield.
- Greater financial control with centralised financial systems across the MAT will result in efficiency savings. Pooling resources amongst schools and being able to commission services and goods on a larger scale, rather than individually, will result in budget savings.
- Establishing long term partnerships – shared accountability can lead to better progress and attainment for pupils and help each school meet rising expectations as resources and expertise are shared.
- Sharing the cost to fund specialist expertise to provide richer curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Greater freedoms to personalise and develop the curriculum to meet the needs of our children.

Further information is set out in the Questions and Answers booklet which also looks at the risks considered and actions taken.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair of Governors

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