



What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded schools, independent of the local authority, held accountable through a funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE).

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is when two or more Academies (schools) work together in a legally binding partnership. Our school is planning to academise and join a local MAT; The Tame River Educational Trust (TRET).

Who will be responsible for running our school?

The Trust has an overarching Board of Trustees and will have a Local Governing Board for each school. The Trustees will have overall responsibility for the finance and standards of the Trust. The Headteacher will continue to manage the school as they do now; challenged and supported by Trust Leaders and the Local Governing Board.

What are the benefits of joining TRET?

After thorough consideration, the Governing Body believes that joining TRET offers the following benefits:

1. Enhanced educational opportunities and collaboration with a family of local schools to share best practice.
2. Improved student support and shared resources to strengthen pastoral care, character development and well-being programs.
3. Access to a wider range of extra-curricular activities.
4. Staff development, retention and increased training and collaborative networks and opportunities for staff.
5. Longer term financial benefits and economies of scale through shared services.
6. TRET aligns with our school's values and priorities.

TRET is a local Trust. Our school will work collaboratively within a family of schools to improve teaching and learning, with the purpose of ensuring the very best outcomes for our students.

Does Ofsted inspect academies?

Yes. Academies are subject to Ofsted inspections and are inspected under the same inspection framework as maintained schools. Academy performance, in the same way as maintained school performance, is assessed and published in DfE performance tables.

Will parents still be represented on the Governing Body?

Yes. The Local Governing Board will still have parent and staff representation, as it does now. The Local Governing Board will have delegated responsibilities from the Trust Board and will retain a local individual focus on the school.

Will uniform/school name/policies change?

There are no planned changes to the school uniform or school name. The school will share TRET policies, in the same way as they currently adopt Local Authority policies.

Why not stay as a Local Authority (LA) school?

The government funding for Local Authority (LA) education services has reduced significantly. The LA must prioritise their statutory duties, so they can only offer very basic support for things like School Improvement. The capacity of the LA will likely reduce further as more schools become academies (recent data shows that over 80% of secondary schools are now academies).

How will admissions to the school be affected?

The Trust will become the admissions authority for the school, but the school will continue to have its own admissions policy as it does now. There are no plans to make changes to the admission policy. The Local Authority will continue to have responsibility for making sure there are sufficient school places locally and it will coordinate the admissions process for all schools. The application process for parents and carers will remain the same.

Do academies follow the national curriculum?

Academies must deliver "a broad and balanced" curriculum, but academies do have more freedoms than Local Authority maintained schools. Most academies continue to follow the National Curriculum.

What impact does academy status have on funding for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

None. The level of funding currently offered to learners with SEN will be maintained.

My child currently receives additional learning support, will this continue?

Yes. Additional support will continue for learners with SEN.

Will the school term/school holiday dates be the same as other Local Authority schools in the area?

Yes. As a Tameside Trust, TRET schools align with the Local Authority dates.

Will the Local Authority still have any involvement in the school if it becomes an Academy?

Yes. The school will still work with the Local Authority and values being part of the wider Tameside family of schools. The school may also continue to buy in to some Local Authority services where these are of benefit to the school and offer the best value for money.

The Local Authority will still retain some responsibilities, relating to aspects of admissions, SEN and children with specific needs.

Will the school have more or less money?

Maintained schools and Academies are funded in the same way under the National Funding Formula. In the same way we currently pay for LA services, we will pay for any MAT services that are run centrally. It is anticipated that some costs would be reduced in terms of efficiencies and economies of scale over time.

Does becoming part of a MAT change the relationship with other local schools?

No. We will continue to collaborate and share best practice and expertise with other local schools and partnerships.