



How big are MATs?

All sizes. Some are large national chains; some are very small with just two or three schools in the local area.

Is Greensand Academy already an established MAT?

No, we are forming it with other local schools.

Would the member responsible for school improvement go and support a struggling school?

The Headteacher and local governing body would first be responsible, then the trust board. School to school support would be driven by the trust board. Members have legal responsibility and would challenge the trust board if necessary, but any issues should be tackled before reaching this level.

Who are members?

Volunteers who are appropriately qualified. The board of trustees elect members. In larger national chains, some of these roles are paid. The school currently pays the local authority for some of the expertise members and trustees would provide.

How do we find them?

Wray Common and the other schools in the proposed academy have approached people we know who are qualified and willing to take on the role.

Will Greensand Academy be privately owned?

No – no private ownership or corporate sponsorship.

Who is responsible for the building?

We lease the premises from the local authority and so are responsible for its ongoing maintenance. In the event of a major disaster hitting the school premises, we would be covered by appropriate buildings insurance. Part of our due diligence before joining the trust is to assess our premises. We would not be able to join with a huge liability – nor would any other school.

Who employs the teaching staff?

Staff are employed by the trust rather than the local authority. We have to maintain all their current rights (e.g. pension rights and continuity of employment).

Would we have a choice if asked to take on a local school facing difficulties?

We could only refuse with good reason. E.g. trust has only just been established and is not yet ready to support further schools. However, we view supporting local schools as a good thing as it benefits the whole community.



Is Greensand Academy planning to take on more schools other than the proposed founder members?

There is no masterplan for expansion; however, long-term it may be beneficial to open up to other schools outside the immediate Reigate/Redhill area.

Why aren't all the local schools joining?

The church schools are not allowed to as the diocese wishes to establish its own trust. Warwick School has gone in a different direction to us and is setting up its own trust.

How do primary and secondary schools in the trust work together?

There will be no huge change to this – we will still liaise with all the local secondary schools in terms of preparing our Year 6 pupils for starting. Admissions are still controlled by the local authority – there is no special treatment/preference for places for pupils who are members of the same academy.

Will school holidays change?

We can adjust them, but there is no reason to change them significantly from the county norm as this could impact parents.

Do the strengths of a school get diluted by being in a MAT (e.g. specialist teachers going into other member schools to provide support)?

This should not happen: sharing of resources provides more opportunities for talented staff, which makes it more likely they will stay at a school. Additional support, challenge and collaboration from being in a trust should improve all schools. We will also benefit from support of other schools if there comes a time when we need it. If one school is in difficulties, the support required can be spread over all the other member schools rather than coming from just one.

What is the anticipated timescale?

We are hoping to have the academy established for the start of the next academic year (September 2017). However, this depends on how quickly processes move over the next few months.

Does the trust board set the budget for each school? Will there be safeguards in place to prevent larger share of the budget being directed to one school in particular need at the expense of other member schools?

Each school retains the management of their own budget, but a proportion (still to be decided) is maintained centrally to cover Trust expenses such as audited accounts. It is anticipated that there may also be a paid CEO role which may be part-time. All such, costs will be carefully reviewed by the Trust Board to ensure value for money is achieved.