



Headteacher
Miss L. J. Barringer
M.A. B.Ed.(Hons) APD(Ed Cons)

The Leyes Site, Osaldwick, York YO10 3PR
Osaldwick Lane Site, Osaldwick, York YO10 3AX

Tel: 01904 555606
Fax: 01904 425346

osaldwick@york.gov.uk
www.osaldwickprimaryschool.co.uk

20 March 2017

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the school joining the Ebor Multi-Academy Trust

What is an academy?

Academies are classed as independent state schools with the freedom to determine their own policies in areas such as the curriculum, school hours, term dates, staff roles and service providers. Academies are managed by their own Academy Trust. They may continue to work with, but are no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority. Academies are given their funding direct from the government. This means that they get slightly more money per pupil, as money is no longer held back by the Local Authority to fund central services. This gives them greater freedoms about how to spend the money.

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

In a Multi-Academy Trust, schools work together as a group of schools. The amount of governance (decision-making) kept at a local level varies according to the trust. In our case, Osaldwick Primary School and other schools which are part of the trust would retain their own Governing Bodies and Head Teachers, so that there would be a great deal of autonomy allowing for the individual characteristics and ethos of each school to continue.

Ebor Academy Trust has a group of Schools in York and is one of five academy trusts in the City. All consist of local schools serving local people meeting the needs of their communities.

What are the financial benefits?

Although it is not the main reason behind the proposal, as we face times of austerity, any opportunity for additional funding cannot be ignored.

- Initial grant for the MAT to help support us as we are a school requiring improvement
- Additional per-pupil funding of approximately 2%
- Using the power of joint purchasing to reduce costs of services
- The opportunity to bid for grants from a central Government pot only open to academies.

Are there any rules about pupil admissions for academies?

Yes. Academies have to follow the law for school admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as if they were a maintained school. There would be NO change in catchment area.

What would be the changes for my child?

It is very unlikely that you or your child would notice any difference in their day-to-day schooling. The ethos of the school and the values we hold dear would stay the same.



Winner: Speaker of House of Commons National School Council Award 2010

Would teaching standards change?

Joining a MAT supports the continued training and development of our staff, and enable us to provide and extend the curricular and extra-curricular activities for our children. We are still a valued strategic member of the Pathfinder Teaching Schools Alliance and will continue to draw support from training from the Teaching School as well as Ebor where such training is necessary.

How do I find out more about academies?

You can find out more from the Department for Education at www.education.gov.uk. The page on academies is a good starting point.

Will my child still be included in local school cluster events?

Yes. There will be no change and they will be included as they are now so future pupils moving to Archbishop Holgate's School will benefit from continued sports and other activities with other local schools.

Schools feeding the same secondary school may be in different multi-academy trusts but that has NOTHING to do with their transition to secondary education.

What guarantees can you give?

It is very difficult to make guarantees when the outlook for education funding is so challenging, but Governors have committed to the following. As a result of joining the Ebor MAT:

1. There would be no name change for the school, other than potentially including the word 'Academy'.
2. The school would maintain the same admissions procedures. The Local Authority would still be asked to carry out the admissions arrangements for the academy.
3. There would be no job losses as a result of joining the MAT process.
4. There would be no changes to staff employment rights, pay or conditions of service.
5. Both teaching and support staff would enjoy the same pension rights as now.
6. Continuity of service in Local Government would be recognised for employees.
7. Union representation would continue to be encouraged.
8. The school would receive at least the same funding as it would have done as part of the Local Authority.
9. There would be no pay rises for senior staff other than the normal ones that would have taken place if the school were a Local Authority school.
10. There would be no changes to the current school uniform.
11. There would be no changes to the availability of free school meals for children.
12. There would be no detriment to the provision of our support for children with SEN/disabilities.