

Statement by the Governing Board concerning Multi-Academy Trusts

The Government has stated its intention that all schools will become Academies and that these schools will mostly be required to join a Multi-Academy Trust. Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) are groups of schools which come together under one legal entity whilst remaining individual schools, retaining their own identity and ethos. It is not government policy that existing Academy schools will be required to join a MAT unless they are deemed to be failing.

How does this policy affect Farmor's School?

As a successful, sustainable Single Academy Trust (SAT) we will not be required to join a MAT. However, the government increasingly expect successful secondary schools to support schools which are required to improve standards of education. It is also possible that small primary schools required to convert to Academy status and join a MAT may look to large, successful academies such as Farmor's School to form a multi-academy trust together.

What are the intentions of Farmor's School regarding MATs?

The governing board is duty bound to consider all options for securing the long term success of the school. These options include:

- Remaining as a Single Academy Trust
- Forming a Multi-Academy Trust with other schools
- Joining an existing Multi-Academy Trust

The governing board's current position is that Farmor's School is not actively planning to join or form a MAT. The governing board is keeping abreast of national and local developments and will continually review its position.

Farmor's School may be approached by existing MATs looking to expand. The governing board would be required to consider such approaches. However, any proposal to join or form a MAT would be carefully considered and, if formal negotiations were to be entered into, would involve consultation with parents and stakeholders.

Tony Joslyn
Chair of Governors
May 2016