

### PARENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is an academy?	Academies are state-funded schools which are directly funded by the Department for Education rather than through the Local Authority. Primary academies are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and continue to be inspected by Ofsted.
Why is this school considering becoming an academy?	The Learners' Trust has a strong model to support schools in improving outcomes and choices. The School is considering joining the Trust because of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The additional leadership capacity they can offer to support the school</li> <li>• The additional financial capacity they can offer by working in collaboration</li> <li>• The additional professional development for all staff on offer which will help our school improve provision for our families.</li> </ul>
How is an academy funded?	Academies are funded directly by the Department for Education. This means that academies receive 100% of their grant (rather than a proportion of these funds being diverted to the local authority) and are free to choose how to spend it, as long as it is spent on improving the education of its students.  The Trust provides a range of services including HR, finance, IT, governance and leadership support through a contribution from school budgets.

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<p>What is the goal of The Learner's Trust?</p> <p>How will they achieve their goal?</p>	<p>Our goal is to create choices and enrich lives by enabling the best learning experiences possible, provided through the best possible teaching</p> <p>We believe the following strategies will allow us to meet our goal;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on creating capacity (time and resources) for schools</li> <li>• Ensure support is agile, providing intervention at the earliest opportunity</li> <li>• Support schools to employ and invest in the best educators for children</li> <li>• Seek continuous improvement and disruptive innovation</li> <li>• Maintain good provision by not making one school weaker to make another school stronger by 'stealing' staff or resources</li> </ul>
<p>How will this school change if it becomes an academy?</p>	<p>To our children, their families and our staff this school will seem unchanged after conversion. The school will continue to focus on our aims and values and will continue to provide a caring, safe, secure and stimulating environment where your child is encouraged to become a self-confident and self-disciplined learner.</p>
<p>Will our school name change?</p>	<p>No. The school has a unique identity within the community and the Trust will not change the school name or uniform.</p>
<p>Will our uniform change?</p>	<p>No. Decisions on uniform are left up to the school. The Trust will not enforce new uniforms or logos.</p>
<p>How will governors be affected?</p>	<p>In the Learners' Trust we call our local governors "School Champions". Governors at the school will be invited to become members of the Champions' Board for the school and will continue to support the school in all that it does.</p>
<p>If this school becomes an academy could it either become selective or change its admission criteria?</p>	<p>While the school will have its own admissions policy this will continue to be co-ordinated through the Local Authority and therefore our admissions criteria will remain unchanged and we will not become a selective school.</p>

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Will children with SEN or additional needs still be catered for?	Children with additional or special needs will continue to receive the same levels of support as they do now. High needs funding will still be provided by the Local Authority even if we are an Academy.
Will staff terms and conditions be affected?	<b>No. The Trust will TUPE (move across) all terms and conditions that are in place now and keep them that way.</b>
What happens to the school buildings?	The Trust leases the school buildings for 125 years from the Local Authority. The lease ensures that the buildings and outdoor areas are used for educational purposes and can therefore not be sold off or otherwise converted.
How will becoming an academy affect the relationship between local schools?	This school has a strong collaborative working relationship with its local schools and these relationships will continue to be strengthened and will no doubt further flourish. The Learners' Trust is growing and is already responsible for many local schools.
Can we afford the set up costs of becoming an academy?	Yes. The Trust will meet the costs of transfer without using any funding allocated within the school budget for the running of the school.