



Academisation Consultation

Frequently asked questions

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A charitable company limited by guarantee (the Academy Trust) is responsible for the academy, the Academy Trust signs the Funding Agreement (the contract) with the Secretary of State as part of the establishment of the academy.

Red Kite Learning Trust would be responsible for all the schools within the Trust.

Local Governing Bodies provide local governance, support and challenge to the Heads of Schools and leadership team, and retain representatives from parents and staff.

Why is the Governing body proposing to be part of Red Kite Learning Trust instead of another academy?

- Red Kite Learning Trust is a good fit with Saltergate Schools. We believe their vision, moral purpose and ethos is aligned with ours in gaining the very best outcomes for all children. We already have a strong relationship with Rossett School, and all parties are keen to strengthen this relationship by making it formal.
- Many staff within both Saltergate and Red Kite Learning Trust have already been working together, collaborating on new ideas and learning from each other, within the Red Kite Alliance.

What are the potential benefits of being part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

- As a family of schools, MATs improve children's education by sharing ideas and expertise with each other. The family of schools share good practice on curriculum, assessment and behaviour.

- Collectively MATs offer even greater and more structured career pathways for staff supported by high quality professional development opportunities.
- As a family of schools, MATs help teachers and leaders spend more of their time focused on the one thing that counts the most – the education of children and young people.
- The support the trust provides to schools – School Improvement, Human Resource, Finance, Technology and Estate Management, plus Data Analysis and Procurement, Admissions and Marketing, make this possible.

Would the proposed academy structure have any impact (positive or negative) on the school's future capital investment plans or ability to access capital investment compared with remaining as we are currently with the local authority?

Red Kite Learning Trust receive a capital allocation due to its scale and no longer has to rely on bids. The Director of Estates will allocate capital funds to where it is most needed across the schools.

What are the financial implications?

Some of the funding that the school receives will be used to fund the central services provided by the Red Kite Learning Trust. The Trust aims to ensure that the investment in front-line resources in schools are always protected and works hard to generate the “Trust Dividend” which comes from being a highly collaborative group of schools. The school will be asked to contribute 5% of its main budget allocation plus an element for IT support. Devolved Formula Capital is pooled to cover ICT infrastructure. Many of the services that the schools currently buy will be provided by Red Kite Learning Trust. The schools will also be eligible for capital funding, according to priorities.

Where schools have followed a similar route to academy status has this enhanced or detracted from their desirability as first choice for new intake?

Being part of an academy trust generally is more attractive to children applying as the

School will gain from the collective expertise of a larger body of staff across the schools. The schools are more able to adapt swiftly to changes and respond to challenges as they arise.

What will the nature of your curriculum be and will it be able to demonstrate Intent, Implementation and Impact? How will children with additional needs be supported?

The school curriculum will continue to demonstrate intent, implementation and impact, working to ensure that all students make good progress. The needs of all our children will continue to be a priority, with all staff working under the leadership of our SENDCO to adapt and refine teaching to ensure appropriate provision.

Will the structure of the school day have to change?

No, the school day will remain the same, meeting the DfE advice for a school week of a minimum of 32.5 hours.

How is the management structure of the Multi Academy Trust funded?

Any shared services that the Multi Academy Trust chooses to offer its schools are funded directly by the schools who form the Trust. Academies receive their funding directly from the Government. Accountability and responsibility for the performance of these shared services lies with the CEO of the Trust. Each academy is required to publish their annual accounts.

What is the organisational structure for the trust?

Red Kite Learning Trust has a leadership structure which supports all schools within the trust. Some of the roles and post holders are:

Richard Sheriff - CEO

Steve Howell - CFO

Julie Wellacott - Director of HR

Amanda Thornton Jones - Director of Primary Education

Would the Saltergate budget be ring fenced or is it all in one pot to pay for all the schools in the Multi Academy Trust?

Our budget remains ours however, we will choose to spend some of this on shared services the Multi Academy Trust provides. Currently we purchase some of these services from North Yorkshire. Money spent with North Yorkshire will, over time, be spent on shared services provided by the Trust.

Currently the school leadership team is responsible for the recruitment of teachers and support staff. Will this remain the case?

Yes

Why is North Yorkshire Council not invited to be part of the consultation to give their viewpoint?

North Yorkshire local authority are informed as part of the consultation and enable schools to join trusts. They always work in partnership with the Regional Schools Commissioner to bring this about.

My child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Will this continue?

Yes.

What are the options available if;

The majority of parents are against the proposal

There is not a clear majority either way

The governors will take the views of its stakeholders into account and if the majority are against it they may reconsider their options.

How much is the CEO paid?

All Multi Academy Trusts are required to publish their annual accounts which include details of higher paid staff (those whose earnings exceed £60,000). The accounts for Red Kite Learning Trust are published on their website.