



esteem
Multi Academy Trust

Information for Parents: Becoming an Academy



▶ Academies

There are two types of academies:

Converter Academies - those deemed to be performing well, and who have chosen to convert in order to benefit from the increased autonomy that academy status brings.

Sponsored Academies - mostly under-performing schools converting to academy status and run by sponsors.

We are a Converter Academy

▶ The difference between Academies and Maintained Schools

Maintained School	Academy
Maintained schools receive their funding from the local authority	Special and pupil referral unit academies receive some of their funding directly from the government, while some still comes from the local authority
Staff are employed by the local authority	Staff are employed by the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)
Must follow the National Curriculum	Do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but must provide a broad and balanced curriculum which includes English, Maths and Science
Must set term dates close to the LA guidance	Have greater freedom to set term dates
Follow the government rules on special education needs	Follow the government rules on special education needs
Follow the government rules on exclusions	Follow the government rules on exclusions
Follow local authority rules for admissions to the school	Follow the same rules as other state schools, but can set their own arrangements
To make improvements to school buildings, schools must apply to the local authority capital fund (which has been reduced significantly)	To make improvements to the school buildings, schools can apply to the Department for Education fund

► Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)

Two-thirds of academies are run by Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). MATs are groups of schools working together.

The proposed Esteem Multi-Academy Trust, will be comprised of the following special schools and support centres, who we already work with very closely:

Amber Valley and Erewash Support Centre
Bennerley Fields School
Fountains Primary School
Fountains High School
Holbrook School for Autism
North East Derbyshire Support Centre
Peak School
South Derbyshire Support Centre
Stanton Vale School

► Why Convert?

All of the schools currently work very closely with one another; converting and forming a MAT strengthens the existing relationship between schools.

School budgets are becoming ever tighter as schools have to pay for more and more services. Conversion will allow us to better target your child's needs in how we use the funding we already get. Conversion will also allow us to apply for the many grants and subsidies that are only open to Academies, to improve facilities for your child.

Working with like-minded schools will enable us to share our expertise, provide excellent training opportunities for staff and ultimately improve the provision, experience and opportunities available to all children. There will be greater opportunities for school-to-school support, and together we can purchase the services we need.

In a MAT where there is some centralisation of the day-to-day running, headteachers will be able to place greater focus on teaching and learning, and dedicate more of their time to the needs of students.

► How will it affect my child?

From the information above, hopefully you will see that there will be no real change to the organisation of provision and the children's day-to-day routines. Over time, we expect the differences to be seen in the continuing improvement of the experiences and services we offer.

We hope this leaflet has given you a little more information about what becoming an academy means in general, and what it will mean for Peak Special School.

Please let us know your thoughts and ask any questions, no matter how big or small, they are all important. John will be available to talk to all day on Friday 8th June either by calling in, or by telephone. He can also be contacted any time at jmcperson@peak.derbyshire.sch.uk

