

Academy FAQs from Parents

What different kinds of academies are there?

- Most people know about the ones that are run by large organisations who use their general management expertise in order to run groups of schools. These can be large secondary schools, or in some cases commercial enterprises, which provide a profit from schools to pay dividends to shareholders.
- There are also academies that are formed by groups of schools coming together to pool their expertise and resources, but where the emphasis is on retaining all that is best about the member schools. These academies are run by boards with governors and head teachers of the schools involved, together with co-opted members to ensure a full range of expertise. They are entirely educationally focused, there are no shareholders and no profits are made from the academy. **This is the model that we are proposing to adopt.**

Why are we doing this now?

- Because all member schools will benefit from a shared bank of best practice, expertise and resources, which will be available if our schools work together in closer partnership.
- Currently, as a school under the Local Authority, we are limited as to how we can use our funding and some funding is held back to deliver central services. However as part of a Multi Academy Trust we will have more autonomy to use our funding how we see fit, and in so doing make better use of the resources available to us.

Who is the Multi Academy Trust that the school is proposing to join?

- It's called Selby Educational Trust (SET). It has been set up by Selby College to improve the educational standards and outcomes for the community the schools collectively serve.
- Each school joining SET will seek to be transformational and strive for outstanding all round achievement and success for every child. Staff will share their expertise, high-performing educational values, knowledge and skills and inspire a culture of collaboration between primary and secondary schools within the district we serve.
- The Trust provides a range of expertise and support services through its local partnership of primary and secondary schools and the college.
- Since forming the Multi-Academy Trust, they have developed a specialist team of staff able to support partners; providing curriculum and support consultants with tried and tested experience of successfully managing school and college departments. Each consultant is dedicated to improving individual partner school performance.
- Their specialist team provides support on a wide range of issues affecting education partners including, Leadership, Behaviour support, Managing Information, Communications and Technology, Governance, HR, Finance, Marketing and Communications, Project Management, Estates and Facilities and Academy Conversion.
- Further details available at www.selbyeducationaltrust.uk

How will it be different from how our schools work at the moment?

Most things will remain the same:

- Each school will continue to have its own individual Aims and Values, and will continue to concentrate on all the things that make each school successful.

- The school will keep their own head teacher and their individual governing bodies.
- Each school will keep its own uniform and continue to set its own curriculum.
- The admission process will remain the same – remaining with the local authority.
- Your children will continue to be taught by their usual teachers and the children will notice no difference in their school day.

These are the things that will be different:

- It will be much easier to exchange ideas and good practice, allowing all schools to benefit from strengths found in individual schools.
- We will share data, and support each other to make improvements in our individual schools.
- The schools will be able to share services, providing better value for money.

Would SATs test stay the same or get easier/harder?

National tests from the Government would remain the same as they are now and are compulsory for academies as well as maintained schools.

Would good or better schools be brought down by lower performing schools?

No, in this model we would ensure that if schools were being supported the day to day running, teaching and learning in the good school would remain as much of a priority as the school being supported.

Would there be any change in staffing levels?

In the Selby Educational Trust we would have control of our budget and as long as we didn't spend more than we had, we can decide how to staff the school. While there will always be changes, these as they do now, will reflect the annual school budget.

Do teaching hours stay the same and holidays?

There are no plans to change the teaching hours or holidays at the moment. We could hold a consultation at some point if parents and staff felt it would make a difference to our community.

What about term-time holidays?

We would follow the latest advice. This is changed by the Department for Education and we are awaiting some updated clarification. Some areas of the country have changed some of their holidays to allow parents to book a cheaper deal. We would look at whether this option would work for us, but consult parents as we would do now.

Would the uniform or the school name change?

This would be up for discussion. The Selby Educational Trust have no set uniform or name, so this would be something as a school we could decide during the formal process of becoming an academy.