



### Where to go for:

- more information;
- answers to questions;
- to state your opinion;

### Contact the school

If you have any questions or concerns about joining a multi-academy trust and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### Open Consultation

Views of parents can be submitted via a box in the school office or by email to [consultation@keston.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@keston.croydon.sch.uk)

### Parent Consultation Meeting

A meeting will be held at 7pm in the junior school hall on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**. All are welcome to attend this meeting where the Governors and members of the Pace Academy Trust will answer questions and provide you with further information.

The Governors welcome questions in advance which will be discussed at the meeting – answers will also be published on the school website.

### External links

You may also find the following helpful:

#### Academies – questions answered

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-facts-you-need-to-know-about-academies>

#### The national curriculum: overview, GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum>

## Information Leaflet Multi-academy Trusts

**Keston Primary School consultation on conversion to academy status and joining the Pace Multi Academy Trust.**

**Consultation period:**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

## What is a multi-academy trust?

A multi-academy trust is a formal collaboration between two or more academy schools, where all of the schools in the trust are overseen by a single board of trustees.

Schools in a multi-academy trust do not need to be the same type of school. For example, primary schools can be in a multi-academy trust with secondary and/or special schools.

Once established, multi-academy trusts are able to grow if more schools wish to join.

## What are the possible benefits of joining a multi-academy trust?

The government believes that being part of a multi-academy trust allows schools to:

- Enhance the children's educational experiences through the sharing of resources across the Trust
- Be more financially efficient than standalone schools (for example by centralising services)
- Enable the school to continue to attract and retain high quality staff
- Provide further opportunities for staff to work alongside a wider range of colleagues to shape future developments
- Establish succession planning programmes

## What does the conversion process involve and how long does it take?

Anyone can register an interest in their school becoming an academy but the school must have received agreement from their governing body before it can apply.

The basic start up grant of £25,000 is paid to all converters when they are approved in principle to become an academy and can be used to support the process. The key steps a school must take are all explained in the DfE's conversion guide.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

It is important to ensure the consultation process is as inclusive as possible. There is no specified length of time for the consultation but it usually takes about a month and involves a range of methods of engagement with stakeholders. Most schools are able to convert in around four months.

## Will the school lose its independence by becoming part of a multi-academy trust?

The multi-academy trust model allows schools to benefit from working together while retaining a level of autonomy and unique identity.

Although there will be a single board to oversee all the multi-academy trust, each school still has the opportunity to maintain a local governing body. The governors on this local board are there to represent the interests of their school.

In addition, headteachers continue to lead their own schools in the multi-academy trust, but are more able to focus on teaching and learning as many of the operational aspects of school management are dealt with across the trust.

## FAQs

### Do schools in a multi-academy trust receive more funding?

Academies receive the same levels of funding for their pupils as maintained schools, and there is no additional funding for being in a multi-academy trust.

In the PACE Multi-Academy trust a percentage of the individual schools' budget is put into a central pot to provide school improvement and administration support.

Academies also continue to receive Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), which is allocated on the same basis as for maintained schools; this is normally used for capital maintenance of buildings and ICT.

Funding is available for expansion and high value repairs. Individual academies within the Trust will be able to apply for a grant.

### Will being in a multi-academy trust have an impact on the curriculum?

Academies are not required to follow the National Curriculum and have greater freedom to determine the content of the school's curriculum, but are still required to teach:

- English, maths and science
- Religious education

### Will my child have new teachers when the school joins a multi-academy trust?

When a school joins a multi-academy trust the staff currently employed by the school transfer into the employment of the trust. The current staff will remain at Keston however it will be easier to share expertise and there will be positive opportunities for staff development.