

Dear Stakeholders

As you may already be aware, the board is considering whether Matchborough First School Academy (MFSA) should join Central Region Schools Trust (CRST), a multi academy trust. The board is now consulting on whether the MFSA should join CRST. Further information about what joining CRST means is set out below.

Will Matchborough First School Academy definitely join Central Region Schools Trust?

The board of the Academy is currently considering joining CRST. However, the Academy is not obligated to join.

The board will not agree to join the CRST until parents and carers of pupils at MFSA, staff at MFSA, and pupils themselves have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the board before it takes the final decision to join CRST. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

The board will not vote to proceed with joining CRST unless they are content that the transfer would be in the best interests of Matchborough First School Academy, taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications.

What is a Multi Academy Trust?

A multi academy trust is an academy trust which operates more than one academy.

We are proposing to transfer the assets of MFSA into CRST. This means that if we proceed to join then we will be part of multi-academy trust.

What are the benefits of becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust?

In the board's opinion the benefits are numerous:

- **Multi Academy Trusts benefit from having larger combined budgets and may be able to fund specialist expertise**
- **Multi Academy Trusts improve the prospects of staff retention and recruitment by creating greater opportunities for staff within the expanded trust**
- **Multi Academy Trusts can develop shared professional development programmes**
- **Multi Academy Trusts benefit from shared thinking and planning**
- **Multi Academy Trusts benefit from economies of scale and shared procurement**
- **Multi academy Trusts can benefit from improved collaboration and accountability**

Are there any disadvantages to joining a Multi Academy Trust?

CRST will be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety, and, property maintenance. However, academies receive more funding from central government to help them meet these additional costs.

Matchborough Way
Matchborough
REDDITCH
Worcestershire
B98 0GD



Headteacher: Lynn Briers

Tel: 01527 883880

Email: office@matchborough.worcs.sch.uk
www.matchborough.worcs.sch.uk

Nursery, Language Unit and Forest School

The MAT board, will become the accountable body for the Academy but the MAT board will establish a local governing body with delegated responsibilities and powers and it will be for the board of the multi-academy trust to act in the best interests of all of its academies.

What will happen if we join CRST?

The Trust presently responsible for maintaining the Academy will cease to exist once the assets and staff of the Trust are transferred to CRST and the trustees of CRST will have responsibility for the Academy after transfer.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

The Trust currently deals with its own admission arrangements. As part of CRST, the multi academy trust will become the admissions authority for the Academy and would also still be bound by the national Admissions Code, and Admissions Appeals Code.

The current admission arrangements will remain in place for the time being. If the Academy wanted to change its admission arrangements consultation would be required.

Will staff leave?

If the Trust joins CRST, all staff currently employed by the Trust will automatically transfer to the multi academy trust on their current pay and conditions.

Will the current academy change?

Having discussed the transfer and future of Matchborough First School Academy with CRST, we do not anticipate changes except in ways which we think will improve MFSA even more. For pupils, it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day-to-day lives in the school.

How can I find out more?

There is also more information about multi academies trust on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-academy-trusts-establishing-and-developing-your-trust>

If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website please complete the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZVtHE15Ax8>

We will produce a Frequently Asked Questions document to answer these in due course.

How can I make representations?

To respond to this consultation on whether the transfer should take place:

Representations can be made in writing to:



"Aim High and Smile" ☺
Matchborough First School Academy is committed to safeguarding

Matchborough Way
Matchborough
REDDITCH
Worcestershire
B98 0GD



Headteacher: Lynn Briers

Tel: 01527 883880

Email: office@matchborough.worcs.sch.uk
www.matchborough.worcs.sch.uk

Nursery, Language Unit and Forest School

School Office
Matchborough First School Academy
Matchborough Way
Matchborough
B98 0GD

Or by completing the form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZVtHE15Ax8>

The closing date for representations to be made is 24th November 2025.

Yours Faithfully

Lynn Briers
Headteacher

Juliet Brunner
Chair of Trust Board



"Aim High and Smile" 😊
Matchborough First School Academy is committed to safeguarding

