

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the existing Academies need agreement from the Local Authority to merge?

No. The Academies Act 2010 has removed the need for the Local Authority to approve plans for any merger agreements.

What form of relationship will exist between the Local Authority and the school?

This is for individual Academies to determine – there is no statutory requirement for any formal relationship between Local Authorities and Academies. Academies are directly funded and accountable to central government (Department for Education and the Education Funding Agency). The Local Authority retains statutory duties for aspects of Special Educational Needs, admissions coordination and provision of home-to-school transport. Local Authorities are also expected to play a key strategic role locally in areas such as pupil place planning, admissions and sharing good practice. However, we have very good relations with Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Council and other neighbouring schools and will continue to work with them in a spirit of cooperation as we currently do.

Will the new Academy have a new name?

As part of the consultation process, the directors of both MAC's, governors, alongside the Archdiocese will review what identity best promotes Catholic education. It is envisaged that a new name would represent the beginning of a new company with its own identity.

Are Academies subject to the same Ofsted, and in the case of church schools Section 48, inspection regime?

Yes, all Schools will continue to be inspected in the normal way.

Will the merger generate additional money for Schools?

Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school plus an additional 'Education Services Grant' to reflect funding held centrally by Local Authorities. The Government is clear that becoming an Academy should not bring about a financial advantage or disadvantage to a school. However, academies do have greater freedom to decide how they use their entire budget.

Will the merger affect our admissions arrangements?

The process for admissions - coordinated by the Local Authority - will remain the same. In the same way as maintained schools, all academies are required to adopt clear and fair admission arrangements in line with the admissions law and the School Admissions Code.

Will Academies have to be a part of the annual coordinated admissions scheme? E.g. when the LA needs to find places for families relocating to the area etc.

Yes - Academy Funding Agreements require them to be in local coordination. That means although the academy will apply its own admission arrangements, the LA will send out offers of places. The Local Authority in Warwickshire and Worcestershire also coordinates admissions for in-year applications and applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry. This will not affect the Academy's right to determine which applicants have priority for admission. Academies are also required through their Funding Agreements to participate in local fair access protocols which help to ensure that no child is without a school place.

Can new Academies decide to bring in academic selection?

No, there will be no expansion of selection. Schools which already select some or all of their pupils may continue to do so when they become Academies, but schools becoming Academies cannot decide to become newly selective schools.

Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and exclusions change?

No. Responsibilities as an Academy in relation to Special Educational Needs and exclusions will be just the same as they are now as a maintained school.

Can a child with a statement of Special Educational Needs nominate an academy as their school of choice?

Yes. These arrangements and related processes must at all times comply with the School Admissions Code and responsibilities as an Academy in relation to Special Educational Needs will be just the same as they are now as a maintained school.

Does becoming an Academy change the way in which exclusions are dealt with?

Academies are required by their Funding Agreement to follow the law and guidance on exclusions as if they were maintained schools. This includes reporting exclusions to the Local authority. However, Academies do not have to consult the Local Authority before deciding to exclude a pupil and they can arrange their own independent appeals panel.