

JOHN EMMERSON BATTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

WALNUT GROVE REDCAR TS10 3PG

Head Teacher: Mr. Martin Kitchen

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Why are other local schools not involved in the proposed MAT?

Each school's Governing Body has undergone lengthy investigations and made an individual decision about what it feels to be in the best interests of the children and staff in that school.

Some local schools are already members of existing MATS. As a Catholic school, St Bede's is already part of a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, the Nicholas Postgate Academy Trust. Local Primary schools, Riverdale and Zetland, are members of the Ironstone Multi-Academy Trust. We have benefited by learning from their experiences of undergoing the conversion process.

Overall, it is up to local governing bodies, taking in to account the views of the school stakeholders, whether they convert to become an academy and/or join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

Would more schools join the MAT?

The steering group for the proposal, consisting of the Headteachers of all the schools consulting, have agreed that the number of schools is at its optimum, and, although other schools have enquired about membership, there are no plans to expand unless all schools agree to this in the future. Having 11 schools, with just over 3000 pupils collectively, opens far more capital funding opportunities through central government to maintain and upgrade our school buildings, which could be a distinct advantage.

Are there going to be major changes in how JEB run their school?

There is a great deal of emphasis in the Scheme of Delegation on individual schools retaining their autonomy as far as is possible. The MAT would only intervene where a school was judged to be failing or where there were significant concerns regarding safeguarding practices.

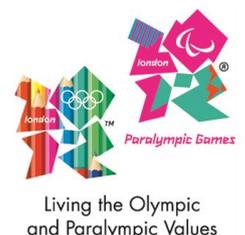
Will there be a change of uniform.

There will be no change of uniform. The school will retain its name and logo.

What curriculum changes will there be?

Each school will continue to develop its own curriculum to best meet the needs of its pupils. However, over time, improved interschool partnerships may provide opportunities for improved curriculum enrichment activities.

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Do staff get to change school to cover sickness in other schools? Will children be taught by staff from other schools? Would John E. Batty staff be moved to work in other schools?

JEB Primary staff would be employed by the Galileo MAT, just as they are currently employed by Redcar and Cleveland Council. However, they would be contracted to work at John Emmerson Batty Primary, and there is absolutely no intention to change this. There may be promotion opportunities within other MAT schools, just as there are in other Local Authority schools and academies now, and staff make their own decisions if applying. John Emmerson Batty Primary School Governing Body would continue to recruit and retain its own staff. This has been built into the scheme of delegation. We already provide, and benefit from, support with other schools consulting on the formation of the MAT.

Each head teacher will continue to be responsible for the deployment of the staff in each school. There is no intention for staff to provide sickness cover where staff from one school cover absence of staff from another school. Overtime the MAT may decide to employ new staff specifically for this purpose, but there is no intention at this stage for this to be the case.

Would funding be distributed fairly? Will funding for school change?

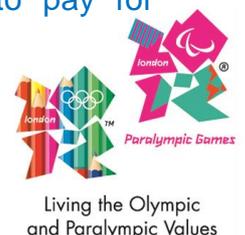
At present, our school budget is distributed by the Local Authority, after a top slice is taken for central services. Academies receive their funding directly from central government, and then decide if there are Local Authority or other services that they value and wish to procure.

In a MAT, a contribution is made from each school towards central services, but, in the Galileo model, this is much less than the top slice taken by the Local Authority. A small number of central staff would be employed to deal with the “business” side of the MAT eg legal, financial and premises services, allowing school staff to focus on teaching and learning and the curriculum, and to benefit from economies of scale savings. The agreed salary for the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) is within the Headteacher range. Media coverage of highly inflated CEO salaries is linked to very large, commercial, national sponsorship chains, not small, local, primary MATs. Please note that the Board Members and Trust Members are all volunteers and are prohibited from making any financial gain from working within the MAT.

Each school receives its own budget to meet the needs of its own pupils, and not to subsidise other schools. Each head teacher would still be responsible for managing the budget for their school, as is the current situation.

Each school receives an additional grant from central government to pay for conversions cost, such as legal and financial services.

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Would the school lose out on funding to upgrade buildings or rebuild the school?

The Galileo MAT would be able to apply for capital funding through the Education Funding Agency on our behalf, although it is still possible that this would be unsuccessful as can be the case with Local Authority applications. The school will be entitled to the same levels of capital funding to maintain and improve premises. Due to the size of the MAT, there will be additional government capital funding made available to the schools within the Trust.

Regardless of the status of local schools as community, academy or free schools, the Local Authority holds the responsibility to ensure that there are adequate school places available for local families.

Would children in an academy still have SATs?

Statutory assessments are compulsory for academies, as well as maintained schools, so there would be no change to this.

Would the school lose its individual ethos and identity?

This is an issue about which all the consulting schools feel strongly. The proposed MAT is a completely different model to others seen locally and nationally. It is a “bottom up” rather than “top down” model with the individual schools’ identities being protected in the scheme of delegation and local decisions being made locally by each school’s Governing Body and leadership team. There is not a corporate, or distant, body imposing its policies, curriculum and structure upon the schools. The schools themselves are designing the scheme of delegation to protect what we, and our communities, value most.

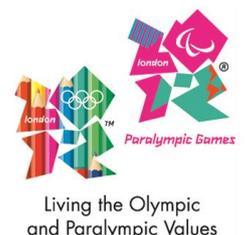
Will this change disrupt Y6?

There should be no disruption to any child’s education in school as there will be no change to the planned curriculum or staff delivering that curriculum. The children will continue to undertake the same assessments as before.

Will each school become a specialist school e.g. sport etc.

Each school will continue to teach the full range of subjects. There is no intention for any school to specialise.

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Could after school clubs be affected?

Each school will continue to manage their own out of school clubs. Closer working between schools might however present new opportunities for pupils to engage in curriculum enrichment activities.

Will John E Batty be fairly treated? Will there be staff from each school on the board?

Our governing body and head teacher will have the same say as other governing bodies or head teachers. There are no representatives from any of the schools at Trust or Members level. This was something that the Head Teacher Steering Group were keen to ensure for the equality of all schools in the Trust.

I am concerned about security in school becoming weaker due to negative experiences of other schools in the trust. How can I be assured about this concern?

There will be no changes to safeguarding procedures at John E. Batty except where improvements to these are identified and agreed by the head teacher. The school's individual head teacher will continue to be responsible for safeguarding in the school they serve.

I am concerned this may need more funding by parents.

There is no reason why the change should result in parents being asked to fund anything additional. There are no plans to change charging policies and school will continue to receive its fair share of the schools' budget.

Will fundraising for John E. Batty go to John E. Batty children?

Any funds raised by the John E. Batty school community will go directly in to support the children of John E. Batty.

Will rent be payable to the local authority for the building?

The MAT will hold a hundred and twenty five year lease of the premises. School will not pay a rent to the local authority.

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