



Department
for Education

Academisation

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Regional Schools Commissioner for North-West London & South Central

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The changing academy landscape

- Strong multi academy trusts are the best way to advance education for the public benefit and can deliver clear benefits for teaching & pupil outcomes
- Strong multi-academy trusts pool and mobilise expertise and knowledge, and sharing key resources to improve frontline teaching and pupil support
- Moving, over time, to a system in which every school will ideally be part of a family of schools in a strong multi academy trust
- Moving from a dual system towards a single model of all schools within a trust
- Support for vulnerable schools to work alongside MATs
- Hard collaboration – a group of schools working together with a single aim, supporting each other, and the trust is accountable for them all

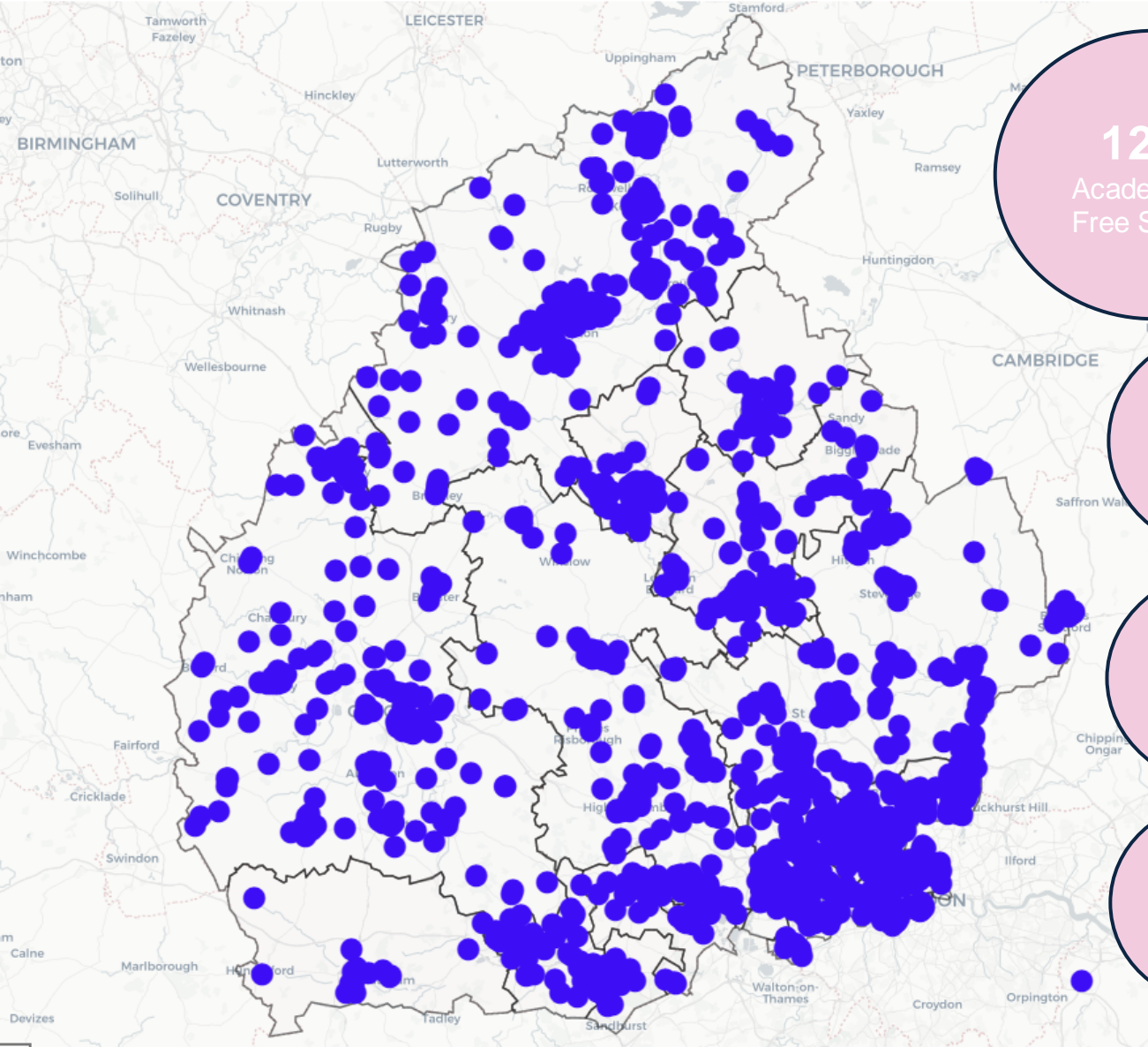


The academies programme continues to grow

- As of the 1st November 2021, there are **9,784** academies and free schools (**9,354** a year ago). Academies and free schools make up:
 - **79%** of secondary schools
 - **38%** of primary schools
 - **43%** special schools and **46%** alternative provision
- **88%** of academies and free schools are in multi-academy trusts (**83%** three years ago).
- The average multi academy trust now has **6.2** academies (**4.9** three years ago).
- As of March 2021, **75%** of sponsored primary and secondary academies that have been inspected are 'good' or 'outstanding'. Only **1 in 10** predecessor schools of sponsored academies were judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' before converting to sponsored academies.
- RSC oversight with ESFA continues, along with other functions of overseeing opening of new schools and school improvement programmes



Academies in NWLSC



1241
Academies &
Free Schools

808
Converter
Academies

277
Sponsored
Academies

156
Free
Schools

**234 MATs and 254
SATs**

41%
Of all schools in NWLSC are
academies or free schools

82%
Secondary Schools

32%
Primary Schools

Source: RSC Briefing Tool October 2021



Growing great multi-academy trusts: routes for growth

<p>Voluntary conversions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually a result of networking and partnership relationships by the trust • Trust Partnerships (SLA) could be used to support this route • Capacity giver • £25k conversion grant 	<p>Sponsored projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on DAOs • Competition – several sponsors options for each project. • High risk – for smaller trusts or those with a high volume of recent sponsored conversions. • SI capacity in the MAT needs to meet the needs of the project. • Sponsored funding tariffs available. 	<p>Transfers of a single academy (from MAT to MAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to intervention or voluntary e.g. strategic partnership relationships forged by the trust • Risk would vary given the context of each project; intervention may be linked to finance, governance concerns and/or performance • Funding options would vary due to context of projects
<p>SAT → MAT transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely via intervention / possibly voluntary or strategic • Trusts build a relationship. • Trust Partnerships (SLA) could be used to support this route • Risk would vary given context of each project; intervention may be linked to finance, governance concerns and/or performance • Funding options would vary due to context of projects. 	<p>MAT → MAT merger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary, strategic or due to intervention. • Could result from networking and partnership relationships by the trust. • Trusts may use an SLA to form a working relationship ahead of a merger. • Risk would vary given context of each project; intervention may be linked to finance, governance concerns and/or performance • Funding options would vary due to context of projects. 	<p>Free schools (Wave / LA Presumptions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeframes tbc • Linked to pupil places need • Competition – several sponsors options for each project • Resource implications for those trusts considering their first FS project • FS funding available • Timeline from award to opening can be longer than other growth routes.

Growing great multi-academy trusts – considerations

Geography

- What is the travel time to schools that might join the MAT?
- How well does capacity align with the location of existing schools and hubs?
- What challenges and opportunities does expansion into a new area/new LA bring?



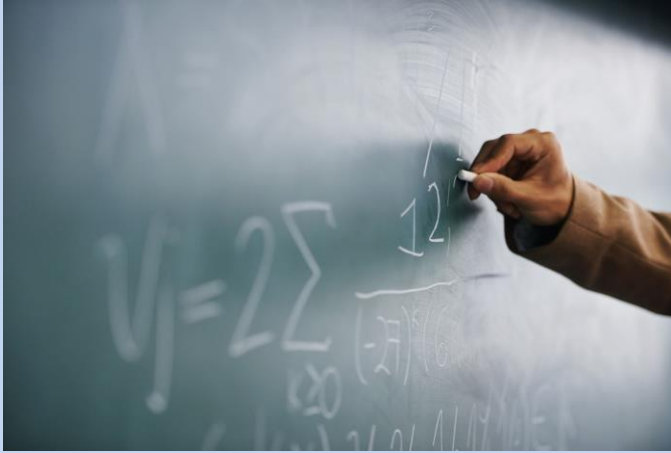
Finance

Some projects come with automatic funding and others may be linked to competitive funding applications such as TCaF. Not all come with financial support from the department.

- How will growth impact the trust's approach to top slicing, capital, balances and GAG pooling?



Cont. Growing great multi-academy trusts – considerations



Rate of Growth

Growth in 'clusters' has both advantages and risks, versus a 'drip feed' of single projects

- What's changing in terms of the total number of pupils and total number of schools in the trust?
- How will the trust ensure that structures (governance, central services and leadership) evolve to accommodate growth?

Project Specific

Capacity needed and risks for each project will vary.

- What can new schools add and what will they need?
- What are the implications for staffing, both at each school and within central MAT team?
- What are the risks and benefits around land, capital and estates for each school?
- What kind of stakeholder relationships need handling for the project?



New Policies & Guidance: support for growth

Updated guidance for academy trusts and prospective convertors

- **The guidance provides more up to date information to the sector, supporting it with a strong evidence base**, whilst outlining more clearly the future of academy trusts.

Trust Capacity Funding (TCAF3)

- **This competitive grant scheme will provide up to £24m funding over the 2021-22 financial year** (an increase of £7m on previous TCaF rounds) to help trusts develop their capacity to grow, particularly by taking on underperforming schools.

Trust Partnerships

- Supporting schools to temporarily partner with a trust, accessing support, advice and resources, whilst empowering schools to make an informed decision about conversion and the benefits of joining an academy trust.

MAT Assurance Framework

- The MAT assurance framework is to support MATs understand their capacity to support and drive school improvement so that they can continue to strengthen their capacity and support more schools over time.

Trust and School Improvement Offer

- This offer will provide **system leader support to schools and trusts** by identifying the right short-term improvement actions.

Diocesan Pilots

- This will provide funding to support the costs of **creating new, strong faith trusts for CofE and Catholic schools** at scale.

Catholic EdMAT

- We are working with the Catholic Education Service and their Dioceses **to establish a new turnaround trust pilot specifically to support Catholic schools in need of intensive support** whilst Dioceses develop their own trust capacity.

Appendices

Useful Links

- [Sponsored Academies Funding Guidance](#)
- [Academy Transfers](#)
- [School Capital Funding](#)
- [Strategic School Improvement Fund – emergency funding](#)
- [Trust Capacity Fund \(TCaF3\)](#)
- [Building strong academy trusts guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [MAT Assurance Framework and guidance](#)
- [Trust partnerships guidance for academy trusts and prospective joiners \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) and [Template SLA for Trust Partnerships](#)





Thank you

Any questions?