

### **What is a Multi-Academy Trust?**

A Multi-Academy Trust (or MAT) is a group of academies under a single governance structure. That structure consists of an overarching Trust in which Members appoint a Board of Directors. The Directors are responsible for setting the vision, policies and priorities for all the academies within the Trust. Each academy can retain its own local governing body (or committee), which oversees the implementation of the Trust's vision, policies and priorities.

### **What are the potential benefits of a MAT?**

We share the opinions, often expressed, that:

- in a formal collaboration, schools are better able to help each other meet rising expectations;
- academy leaders, teachers and other staff can share thinking and planning to spread expertise and tackle challenges together to achieve high quality outcomes for all learners in the MAT;
- teachers and non-teachers can more easily access professional development, sharing knowledge and expertise across a strong network of constituent schools ;
- academy leaders , teachers and other staff can be shared across more than one academy, enabling schools to find different solutions at times of recruitment challenges and to retain staff by providing new opportunities within the group and so plan succession more effectively by securing future talent;
- in challenging financial times, economies of scale, for example through group purchasing, are possible;
- groups of academies can find it easier to fund specialist expertise and so provide richer curricular and extra-curricular activities.