**Academisation - Frequently Asked Questions**:

1. **With whom does the final decision for academisation of a diocesan school rest?**

*This decision rests with the Diocesan Board of Education. Consultation will have taken place with governing bodies and also the Regional Director for the South East.*

1. **Is there an appeals process for this decision?**

*The Board’s aim is that the process of academy conversion is a collaborative one with opportunity for exploration and discussion at the start of the process. All decisions will be in line with the Board’s policy but if there is a disagreement between the Board and a governing body, the Board’s decision will be final.*

1. **Is it the position of the DBE that all SATs should look to join a strong MAT?**

*It is the view of the board that SATs would be better placed as part of a strong MAT. However, this is something that the board wishes to consider with SATs on an individual basis to establish what is in the best interests of each establishment and the needs of its pupils.*

1. **What is the current position regarding the DBE forming its own MAT?**

*The DBE is actively considering forming a diocesan MAT and has agreed to begin explorations to better understand the pros and cons of such a move.*

1. **Can community schools join a diocesan MAT?**

*A diocesan MAT would welcome community schools if they are supportive of the majority articles of association.*

1. **Does a federation of two or more schools need to dissolve before its schools can join a MAT?**

*The process for a federation to convert to a MAT is not set out in legislation, however DfE* [*guidance*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-in-federations/federations-guidance-on-the-governance-processes) *indicates that once the application process to become an academy is complete, the federation should then be dissolved before the schools’ conversion to academy status.*

1. **Can diocesan schools join a mixed MAT (ie diocesan and community schools)?**

*This is possible and diocesan schools are already part of mixed MATs, eg Coastal Learning Partnership and ARK. However, the MAT would need to have adopted Church of England model majority articles of association.*

1. **Can diocesan schools join a MAT that is based across diocesan or local authority boundaries?**

*This is possible for schools where the geographical context would make this a sensible strategy, however the academisation options and criteria remain the same.*

1. **Can diocesan schools join a MAT that has not adopted Church of England Articles of Association?**

*No*

1. **Would a diocesan MAT make use of its positive relationship with Hampshire LA to negotiate retaining their suite of Service Level Agreements (SLA)?**

*This would certainly be considered as part of any diocesan MATs due diligence processes. Any SLAs would need to deliver the desired outcomes and be considered good value for money.*

1. **What does school collaboration mean?**

*This means schools formally sharing personnel and resources to achieve better cost effectiveness and enable recruitment of staff to roles across a number of schools. Headteachers, Administration staff, SENDCo and teaching/support roles can all be filled in this way. It would require support from appropriate experts (eg legal services, personnel services) to set up adequate contracts and interschool agreements.*

1. **What does federating a school mean?**

*This means the joining of governing boards of two or more schools to form one federated governing body responsible for the oversight of any school within the federation. Schools remain separate entities with their own budgets. However, this model can help achieve a similar outcome to collaboration when staff are appointed to a federation rather than a specific school. You can read the DfE’s Federation Guidance* [*here*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-in-federations/federations-guidance-on-the-governance-processes)*.*

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