



“We all flourish from a wealth of learning experiences that positively impact on our academic, physical and emotional success”

## Bluebell Federation: Parent FAQ

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This document contains frequently asked questions for parents regarding our school’s application to convert to academy status. We will be updating these questions and answers regularly as more come in.

### FAQs

#### **What is an academy?**

An academy is a state-funded school independent of local authority control, funded directly by the Department for Education.

#### **Why is the school applying to convert to an academy?**

Securing our future: Becoming a MAT will strengthen our independence and reduce the likelihood of needing to join another trust in the future where we may be taken in a direction that we have no control over. We are one of only a handful of schools still under Local Authority control in Medway. As more and more schools become or join Multi Academy Trusts the capacity of Medway to support schools reduces. There is also a possibility that Medway may increase the amount of money the take from schools in the future as the number of LA schools reduces.

Increasing financial autonomy: We will have greater control over resources, allowing us to invest directly in our schools. We will no longer be paying Medway a percentage of the funds allocated to each child.

Supporting growth and improvement: A MAT structure offers the flexibility to develop and enhance our schools for years to come.



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### **Will the school name or uniform change?**

The name and uniform remain the same, though 'Academy' may be added to the name.

### **Will the school day or term dates change?**

Academies can set their own dates, but we plan to keep the current schedule initially.

### **Will the curriculum change?**

Academies have flexibility, but we will continue to follow the National Curriculum for all subjects.

### **Will parents be consulted?**

Yes, we will consult with parents, staff, and the community before conversion.

### **Who oversees academies?**

Academies are monitored by the Department for Education, Ofsted, and audited annually.