



Principles underpinning the development of Church school MATs in the London Diocese

- 1. LDBS policy will only be settled when the primary and secondary legislation is settled. We place particular importance on:**
 - Ongoing legal protection for the status and character of Church schools
 - The impact on vulnerable Church schools and those serving vulnerable communities
 - Ongoing legal protection for freehold land and site trusts
- 2. Church schools in the London Diocese which become academies must join a Church MAT, defined as a MAT where:**
 - The Articles of Association follow the [DfE Majority version template](#)
 - The Diocese of London holds majority Membership
 - There is a clear process and criteria for appointing Trustees
- 3. In seeking to make decisions for the long-term benefit of Church schools and communities, LDBS will not use current status of schools as the key determinant of future status.**
- 4. Church MATs are expected to live out a distinctive Christian vision which:**
 - Promotes and protects education that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church
 - Is 'deeply Christian, serving the common good'
 - Furthers the Diocese of London 2030 Vision for every young Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ, in schools which are safe and racially just.
 - Enables schools to set an individual vision that reflects the local context
 - Ensures a living wage for staff and contractors
 - Has a demonstrable impact on the effectiveness and distinctiveness of the MAT
- 5. Church MATs are expected to have clear, transparent plans for school improvement including:**
 - Securing high standards with a clear, transparent school-improvement strategy
 - Recruiting, training, investing in and retaining a diverse, skilled, effective staff team
 - Adding strength, stability and security to the family of Church schools
 - Adding value to schools, with transparency about the costs
- 6. Church MATs are open to community schools providing:**
 - The MAT vision and expectations are made clear in advance
 - Church schools remain in the majority
 - The decision has the interests of children at its heart, both those attending the community school and those already served by the Trust
 - The non-denominational status of the community school is protected
- 7. Relationships are at the heart of the family of Church schools so Church MATs must:**
 - Protect local governance arrangements through Articles of Association
 - Commit to ongoing engagement with the LDBS in line with the [2021 DBE Measure](#)
 - Commit to developing collaborations with other Church MATs
 - Recognise and nurture the unique relationship between local churches and schools
 - Are outward looking, working with other stakeholders whenever it benefits children

FAQs

What is a Church school?

A Church school is one which has a Church of England designation. The LDBS has the same statutory responsibilities for any Church school within the London Diocese, whether it is an academy or a maintained school.

What is a MAT?

Multi-Academy Trust i.e., an academy trust that runs more than one academy.

What is an Academy Member and what do they do?

Members of an Academy Trust are the subscribers to the memorandum of association. They appoint and remove trustees, under certain circumstances they can issue direction to trustees, and they appoint external auditors.

What if it is appropriate for Church schools from more than one diocese to join the same MAT?

If the LDBS and another Diocesan Board of Education agree that it is appropriate for Church schools from more than one diocese to join the same MAT, the dioceses together will decide the most appropriate Membership.

If a Church school in the London Diocese is considering academy conversion at any time, or if two trusts are considering merging, the agreement of the LDBS must be secured before any other consultation begins.

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