



Criteria for Forming, Joining and Growing MATs

The LDBS uses these criteria when considering whether to consent to a Church school in the London Diocese joining a MAT, or to consent to the expansion of a SAT or MAT.

A. Governance

- The Trust has [Majority Church articles](#).
- The Diocese of London holds majority Membership of the trust.
- There is a process for trustee appointments to ensure trustees are committed to preserving and developing the Christian character of the Trust, and to fulfilling the Trust deed of each Church school in the Trust.
- There are clear arrangements for local governance.

B. Christian Vision

- The Trust has a distinctive Christian vision that promotes and protects education that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church.
- Each Trust school is able to set an individual vision that reflects the local context.
- The Christian vision has a positive effect on the distinctiveness of the MAT.

C. Standards

The Trust provides transparent information to LDBS and prospective schools in relation to its:

- model of school improvement, including
 - leadership structure
 - decision-making arrangements
 - and areas of collaboration, alignment and standardisation between Trust schools.
- financial arrangements, including
 - funding arrangements for central costs
 - and process for budget setting and financial management.
- commitment to build a diverse, skilled, effective staff team who are paid a living wage.

D. Collaboration

- The Trust engages with Church MATs, VA and VC schools within the Area, and with LDBS.
- The Trust cooperates with LDBS and others to support vulnerable Church schools and to ensure that there is a home in a Trust in the Area for every sustainable Church school.
- There may be exceptional circumstances when it is appropriate for a school which is not a Church school to join the Trust. LDBS will provide further guidance and training for Trustees on these matters. When such an application is being considered, the Trust provides transparent information to LDBS and prospective schools in relation to its:
 - Commitment to maintaining an overall majority of Church schools.
 - Plans to preserve the distinctive Christian character of the Trust.
 - Plans to protect the non-denominational status of the community schools, should they wish to maintain such status.