



# Layton Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Clucas  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Clare Scott

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is an academy?

Academies are still state schools, but they're funded and operated a little differently than maintained schools.

Instead of being funded by the local authority (LA), academy trusts are paid directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This means that academies have more control over how they do things than schools that aren't academies.

Academies don't charge fees.

### What is a multi-academy trust?

Academy trusts are not-for-profit companies. They have trustees who are responsible for their performance, in the same way that LA maintained schools have governors.

The trustees are both company directors and charity trustees, and the academy trust employs the school staff.

We are exploring joining an existing multi-academy trust (MAT), Sea View Trust. This means that we'll be part of a community of schools that are governed by a board of trustees. Each school in the trust will also have its own local governing body, with delegated governance responsibilities for that particular school. The trust will also employ a team of central staff to support the group of schools and drive school improvement. As part of a trust with multiple schools, our school will have the opportunity to collaborate and share resources with the other schools across the trust.

### What is the benefit of academisation for our school?

The benefits for our school will include:

- Continued excellent teaching and learning for our pupils, because:
  - Teaching expertise and resources can be shared across the trust
  - There will be greater opportunities for our staff to develop and share expertise





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- Continued collaboration to ensure the school continues to provide an outstanding education offer for pupils both now and into the future
- Working with SEND specialists within the trust will create capacity and build expertise across all schools within the Trust, including Layton

Layton will also enjoy greater freedom in deciding how to spend government funding and enjoy greater financial efficiency:-

- By procuring goods and services at a larger scale across the trust
- By sharing staff, including specialist staff who work centrally for the trust, like a school improvement team or pastoral team

## Why are we proposing to join Sea View Trust and not another MAT (Multi Academy Trust)?

We are proposing to join Sea View Trust. We have chosen Sea View Trust for the following reasons:

- This is a small, well established trust with expertise in outstanding SEND provision
- Sea View trust has a strong local presence in Blackpool schools
- Layton Primary can support the trust to develop and sustain outstanding learning opportunities for all pupils
- This opportunity will provide increased opportunities for our staff to both develop and share expertise, as many trust schools are local to us
- There are no requirements to change our name or uniform; these will remain the same

## Will the trust or trustees make a profit from the school?

No. Academy trusts are charities, and any surplus or other income must be used to benefit pupils, as it is already.

## Will joining a trust mean they take any money away from our school?

The trust will receive our school's money known as the general annual grant (GAG). It will collect a proportion of this funding to form a fund to pay for some central services before passing on the rest to our school (known as top-slicing) Sea View trust will take 5% of the school's core budget. This is similar to the arrangement we currently have with the Local Authority, where funding is top sliced before being allocated to us.





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However, the trust will:

- Carefully consider the funding needs and allocations of each academy
- Include what services the trust will provide centrally in order that schools will no longer have to purchase elsewhere, such as from the LA
- Consult on any proposals to change the arrangements
- Not top-slice or pool other funding outside of the GAG

## What money will the school get as an academy?

The amount of funding allocated per pupil at our school won't change. We'll get the same funds that we would have done as a maintained school.

However, we'll be able to negotiate our own contracts for products and services, which means we'll have the opportunity to find better services and prices.

## How much is academy conversion going to cost?

The costs of converting to academy status are covered by a government grant.

## When our school is an academy, will it still be inspected by Ofsted?

Academies are inspected by Ofsted, and are held to the same standards as other state-run schools. Both academies and state schools are inspected under the same framework.

## Do academies follow the National Curriculum?

Academies don't have to follow the National Curriculum. However, our current curriculum is based on extensive research, is bespoke to Layton and is built upon high quality research regarding how children think and learn. We will continue to follow our curriculum.

## Will we change our name/logo/uniform?

We recognise parents and carers will not wish to purchase new uniform and there will be no need to do so. Our name, uniform and logo will not change and all will remain as they are; our vision of growing great minds together will also remain.





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## Will our term times change?

We currently plan term times in conjunction with the core Blackpool holiday pattern. There will be no change to this; term dates are set eighteen months in advance.

## Will our catchment area or admissions policy change?

Our catchment area will remain as it is. Academies must follow the same rules for admissions as other state schools.

## How will academisation affect our pupils?

There will be very little difference in the day to day operation of the school. However, over the longer term, pupils will benefit from some of the advantages outlined with this FAQ

## How will this impact on our provision for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?

Sea View trust has five specialist schools within its family of school. An advantage of joining this particular trust would be the benefit of specialist support and advice from SEND schools. Academies have the same requirements when it comes to SEND as other state schools, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice.

## Will academisation impact on our school staff?

All staff will remain in post and in the same position should we transfer over to academy status. Employment rights, conditions of service, pay and pension rights will remain unchanged.

