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## ACADEMY CONVERSION AND SIRIUS ACADEMY MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

### Introduction

This document provides you with information about the proposed change to Academy status as part of Sirius Academy Multi-Academy Trust.

In recent years there has been a thrust to create Academies across England, but especially in Hull. All Hull secondary schools now have Academy status, or are planning to do so. Rise Academy is the only Pupil Referral Unit in Hull remaining under Local Authority control.

### Why change?

Over the last four years Rise Academy has worked closely with Sirius Academy West and Sirius Academy North to share good practice and establish an effective teacher training programme through Blueprint Alliance Teaching School. Recently the Local Authority wrote to all Governing Bodies informing them that the LA could no longer provide school improvement support. This support is essential if all schools are going to improve and develop.

### SAMAT proposal

- Each school joining the Trust will remain focused on delivering outstanding education within Hull, as it does at the present.
- Each school will have its own Headteacher
- Each school will have its own Local Governing Body
- By sharing the cost of resources and administrative costs the Trust as a whole will be more cost effective
- The SAMAT Board will oversee the performance of all the schools in the Trust

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1 What is an Academy?

An Academy is a state school that is run by an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust enters into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that sets out its responsibilities and accountabilities for the effective running of the Academy. The Academy is funded directly by the Government and is no longer run by the Local Authority. The Trust is charitable, which means it operates much like a charity and not for the profit of individuals or businesses.

### 2 What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A Multi-Academy Trust is when 2 or more Academies come together in partnership. Rise Academy will keep its own name. Other Primary Schools are also joining SAMAT at the same time as Rise Academy. SAMAT is already a successful MAT having two successful secondary schools in the MAT; Sirius Academy West and Sirius Academy North.

### 3 How would joining SAMAT benefit our school?

As detailed above, these changes are about enhancing teaching and learning for all the children in the MAT. This would allow us to share skills and operate more effectively.



**4 Who will be responsible for running Rise Academy?**

The Trust Board of SAMAT will have over-arching responsibility for the performance of all the schools, but each school will have their own local Governing Body. The Trust will delegate powers to each Local Governing Body.

**5 What is involved in becoming and Academy?**

The Governing Body has voted *in principle* and the Secretary of State has approved our application *in principle* and issued an Academy order on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 which allows us to convert if the Governors decide to do so in due course.

The Governors will take account all responses to this consultation before making its final decision. If this decision is made the conversion could be as early as 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

**6 How will being an Academy affect staff?**

Currently, the employer for staff at Rise Academy is the Local Authority. After conversion all staff will be employed by the Sirius Academy MAT. Staff are legally protected to transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Their continuity of service is protected, and all staff will be consulted in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE).

**7 How are the students affected?**

In many ways the students will not notice any difference. We will continue to strive for outstanding education for all our students.

**8 Will we get more money as an Academy?**

As a Pupil Referral Unit is funded differently to mainstream schools being an Academy will not give us more money. However, we will be funded directly by the Government and not the Local Authority.

**9 What are the risks of joining SAMAT?**

The MAT has greater freedom in financing and sourcing support such as HR and finance from other sources. These are currently delivered by the Local Authority. If the Trust were to run into financial difficulties in doing this it would affect all the schools in the MAT. The Governing Body must carry out the 'due diligence' before making its final decision to ensure that SAMAT is financially secure. However, at the moment as there are very few staff left in the Local Authority to carry out services such as HR the school is more at risk by NOT joining.

**10 Does becoming an Academy change the relationship with other schools and the community?**

No, although Rise Academy already provides support for Sirius West and North as a priority over other school requests for placements. This has happened as a natural extension from being part of Blueprint Alliance.

**11 Will our responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) change?**

No. Parents wishing to name Rise Academy as their school of choice still remains as an Academy.

**FEEDBACK FORM**

About you:

Please tick

Parent/Carer	
Teacher	
Local resident	
Support Staff	
Other	

**1 Do you support our school in converting to an Academy and joining Sirius Academy Multi-Academy Trust?**

Please respond with Yes, No or Maybe

**2 Is there anything else you would like to say about these proposals?**