

Kingsway Primary School Proposed Academy Conversion to join MITRE

Questions Raised by Parents and Carers

Theme of question	Question	Response
Kingsway Primary School identity and ethos	Would becoming an academy change the nurturing ethos of Kingsway?	A feature of MITRE is to allow each school to retain its unique sense of identity and educational offer. This was a of great importance to the Kingsway governing body when deciding to move forwards with the consultation period. The curriculum and staffing will transition as it is at present and Kingsway will retain its current focus on our children.
	What are the benefits of joining the trust for the school and children?	<p>Currently, support from the Local Authority is targeted towards schools in need. Joining MITRE would provide opportunities for the continuous development at Kingsway. For example, further improving quality of teaching and learning, sharing of best practice, economic benefits of sharing services, greater autonomy in day to day running of the school. Also increasing time to focus on education matters, teaching and learning and care of pupils and staff as joining MITRE would support in a reduction of the time spent on administration.</p> <p>Staff would continue at Kingsway as they would previously but with further opportunities to develop their teaching through working with other schools.</p>
	Will Kingsway have new visual identity as part of a trust and require new uniforms?	No. Kingsway will maintain its own identity and the uniform will stay the same.
	Will the after-school clubs continue?	School clubs will continue. Staff have worked hard to expand the clubs offered this year and this is something school will continue to offer.

	<p>What are the negatives in joining a trust?</p>	<p>There are risks of any collaboration, such as not working in good partnership. A key approach to avoiding this is to select a trust which is closely aligned to the current Kingsway ethos. In selecting MITRE, following research and due diligence, we feel this is the case.</p> <p>The school will retain a local governing body which will continue to advocate for Kingsway. As part of this process, parental feedback will continue to be sought.</p>
Finance	<p>How will funding be allocated to school?</p> <p>Who will have the say in where budget is spent at Kingsway?</p>	<p>Kingsway would receive its own budget to meet the needs of its own pupils. At present, our school budget is distributed by the Local Authority, after a top slice is taken for central services. Academies receive their funding directly from central government. As part of a trust, a contribution is made from each school towards central services.</p> <p>Pupil Premium and SEND funding is allocated specifically to school.</p> <p>There is additional funding which school will access from central government should it chose to move forward on joining MITRE and this would be used to pay for conversions cost, such as legal and financial services incurred during transition.</p> <p>Kingsway staff and governor will still continue to be involved in decisions about how our school funding is spent in the same way as we do now.</p> <p>School will continue to retain the amount of funding it currently does as this is based on pupil numbers. A drop in pupil numbers would mean a drop in funding whether Kingsway was in an academy or not.</p>
Conversion process	<p>What are the timescales for joining MITRE?</p>	<p>Usually between 4 and 6 months.</p>

Governance	Would the creation of a MAT mean a change in governance structure and what would this look like?	<p>The current governing body will be retained as a local governing body and will continue to advocate for Kingsway and be involved directly with school as they currently are.</p> <p>Please see the link for more details relating to the trust governance. Minster Trust for Education - Governance (mitretrust.org.uk)</p>
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Further information about the Minster Trust for Education (MITRE) and other schools within the trust is available on their website www.mitretrust.org.uk