Community Consultation: Conversion to a Multi-Academy Trust — FAQs

School Identity & Site

Will the school's name, uniform or site change? No. GAT describes letting schools keep their own uniform, name and identity (crest optional). We will be known as an academy instead of a school but no other changes to our values or approaches will be enforced.

Will my child still go to the same building, with the same facilities? Yes. Conversion changes the school's legal structure and employer, not its site. Nothing about the location or facilities changes as a direct result.

Admissions & Catchment

Will admissions arrangements or catchment areas change? Not directly. A converted academy generally continues to follow the same coordinated local authority admissions scheme, though the Trust becomes the admissions authority. Any proposed changes would go through public consultation.

Will my other children still get priority under the sibling policy? Existing sibling and other priority criteria are expected to continue, but this should be confirmed formally as part of due diligence and the funding/admissions agreement.

Term Dates, School Day & Uniform

Will term dates or the school day change? Not automatically. Some trusts set term dates centrally across their schools; others leave this to individual schools. We have been told this will be up to us to decide what is best.

Will my child need a new uniform? No. Active uniform policy will remain. Greenwood Academies Trust is a big supporter of OPAL play and have other schools in their trust who have the same ethos.

Teaching Staff & Continuity

Will my child's teachers change? No. Conversion changes the school's employer, not its staff. Teachers transfer under TUPE protections, keeping their jobs, pay and conditions.

Will the Headteacher stay the same? Yes, conversion doesn't automatically change school leadership but it offers more comprehensive support than remaining as a local authority school.

SEND & Additional Support

Will my child's SEND support or EHCP provision change? No. Existing EHCPs and support arrangements are unaffected by a change of employer or legal structure. Any trust-specific SEND offer, such as named specialists or shared services, sits alongside statutory support rather than replacing it.

Governance, Voice & Complaints

Will there still be a way for parents to raise concerns or have a voice? Yes, though the model varies by trust. GAT does not use local governing bodies; instead it uses "Parent Ambassador Groups", who meet with the CEO and help shape decisions. If you want to be part of this group, we'd love to hear from you.

Who do I contact if I have a complaint after conversion? The school's complaints procedure would be updated to reflect the Trust's policy, with a clear route from school to Trust level. You would still raise day-to-day concerns with the school first.

Ofsted & Standards

Will the school be inspected differently, or lose its current Ofsted rating? Conversion doesn't trigger an automatic new inspection, and the school's most recent Ofsted judgement stands. Academies remain subject to Ofsted inspection under the same overall framework. Support for senior leaders for raising standards should be more comprehensive via a MAT central team.

Costs, Clubs & Extra-Curricular

Will costs for trips, clubs or breakfast/after-school clubs change? Not as a direct result of conversion. Any changes to charging policies would be a school-level decision, not something conversion itself requires.

What happens to the PTA or school fund? These are independent of the school's legal structure and aren't affected by conversion.

Process & Timeline

When would this happen, and could it still be stopped? Conversions typically take 6–12+ months from a due diligence decision to legal transfer. Entering due diligence isn't a final commitment; either the school or the Trust can step back at any stage before a final decision, which also needs Full Governing Board approval.
Will parents be consulted? There's no legal requirement for a parent ballot, but schools typically keep parents informed and gather feedback as the process develops, and Sub-Committee decisions are minuted and can be shared on request.

Further Information or Questions?

Attend our drop in session on 19th November 3.30-5.30pm or email consultation@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk