

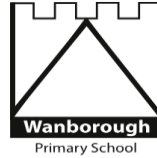
Questions: Prior to MAT Presentation Evening to Parents 10th October 2023

How does the school retain its identity and values?

It is very important to us that schools are a reflection of their local communities and we celebrate the strength that comes from diversity within our MAT. We have a saying that *'you don't get harmony if everybody sings the same tune'*. We do not have a cookie cutter approach to schools where every school is operating in the same way as we feel this removes a school's ownership and ability to innovate.

How will the leadership of the school be impacted? What control will the headteacher lose/gain? What will the school stop doing? Do the school still get to decide on trips/visits/residentials? Would the school be forced into the same holidays as the rest of the academy schools?

The MAT is led and governed by its central team and trustees in a similar fashion to a school where we employ specialised professionals to lead on each area. However, when it comes to setting Trust wide priorities for the year, when we discuss methods of collaboration, how we engage with our schools and

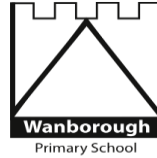


settings or changing the vision we always do this in discussion with our schools. Whenever the trust is thinking of making any major changes, we do this in conjunction with our schools. Our school leaders meet on a very regular basis and we have networking groups for governors where we discuss important matters that affect us all.

Running a school inside our MAT will look very similar to how it does now. Schools are given autonomy to strategically run their schools, set the vision, organise their staffing, manage their delegated budget, develop new methods of teaching and decide how to organise their curriculum. The Trust can support as much or as little as is needed with all these things. Where processes are more aligned are in finance and the school still makes all its major decisions on how to spend its budget. However, as an Academy, the processes for managing finances in school need to be synced across the trust. These are still informed by the school but the processes are led by the Trust.

Is the curriculum centrally designed/decided?

We believe that schools are best placed to design and deliver the curriculum for their pupils. An effective curriculum reflects the local community, history and geography of the area in which the pupils are growing up. The school should lead on what this looks like. As a Trust we support on sharing best practice elements of delivering a good curriculum but the overall design and delivery is up to the school.

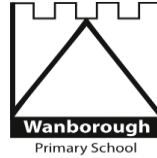


Are staff going to be moved within the MAT? Will each class maintain the same teaching staff each year?

As all staff essentially work for the MAT it does allow for the sharing of staff across the trust. However, so far this has only been done in a small number of cases where it is beneficial to the school and the person involved i.e., career progression, supporting another school or to avoid redundancies. We believe that when a member of staff chooses to apply to a school for a job, they have chosen that school for a reason and where we seek to create opportunities for staff to progress, we would never ask anybody to work in another school, either short or long term against their wishes.

Will all children remain in single year groups classes and be taught by a qualified teacher?

Yes, as long as pupil numbers remain sufficient to employ a teacher per class, which is currently the position in a maintained school.

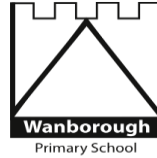


How many schools belong to The Blue Kite Academy Trust? Do they have conversion targets each year?

Currently there are 11 schools in the Trust. We don't intend to have an overly large MAT that is spread throughout the country. We are committed to being geographically close to our schools which aids collaboration. Currently the government have set out a minimum target for MATs to reach 7000 pupils and we are currently at 4000 pupils.

How is the income distributed per school, would the school receive a set amount per pupil in line with LA amounts, or is it pooled, and if so on what basis allocated?

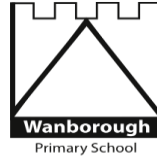
Finances are regulated by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) and its requirements are far more rigorous and robust than they are for a maintained school. This is all documented and set out in the Academies Trust Handbook which is published by the Department of Education (DfE). As a result, the Trust and the schools will receive a yearly financial audit which is managed by the central team and within that team we have accountants, a Chief Financial Officer and very experienced school business managers who are used to working across multiple sites. All of the funding is received by the Trust into one bank account and is then delegated out to schools. The top slice is removed from the GAG only and not from any other



funding schemes e.g., Pupil Premium, EHCP or any income generated by the school itself. The top slice will be 6% and the legal responsibility of this decision sits with trustees and the trust executive team but is always reviewed in conjunction with its schools.

How much money would be available to capital improvements and maintenance of the school itself?

Premises and Health and Safety costs are reviewed on a Trust wide level as an overall premises plan which is tied up with Trusts dedicated capital funding allocation. Setting and monitoring dedicated budgets sit with the school and will be supported by a member of the Trust finance team. As the trust grows, further capital funding will be become available to the trust for supporting schools with capital projects through grants provided by the DfE.



What positives can the academy bring? How can the trust improve the current SEND provisions?

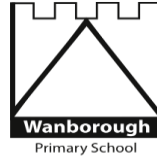
Education and school improvement support, teachers and leaders networking, enrichment opportunities, leadership support, financial management support, HR, Admin and consultancy, governance support including a full training programme, premises support, health and safety support.

Inspire Programme which includes:

- Professional development for all staff
- Collaboration opportunities
- Research and development opportunities
- Nationally recognised qualifications
- Early career framework programme
- Initial teacher training

Lighthouse; family support, SEMH Inclusion support working directly with children, safeguarding support, leadership advice on behaviour and safety, Crisis response, therapeutic support including play therapy, education welfare support, educational psychologist.

SENDCo 'Bricks' which are scheduled networking meetings.



Does the role of the PTA change? How will PTA funds be spent?

No, the PTA can operate as it currently does, with raised funds going to Wanborough Primary School.

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Does the 6% payment to the MAT, include the salary of the CEO and Business Manager of the trust?

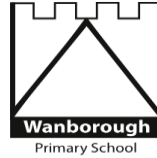
Yes, most of the payment goes towards the employment of the Central Team supporting the school.

If Wanborough School joins the Blue Kite then wanted to change and join a different trust, can we switch across?

If a school was unhappy and felt their needs were not being met by the Trust, then the school can speak to the Regional Director about that. Instances of that happening are rare but re-brokerage can take place if appropriate.

What is the chance of The Blue Kite Trust being taken over by a larger trust?

Mergers between Trusts is something that happens, however Blue Kite is recognised as a strong, successful Trust with stable finances and effective school improvement systems in place, so this is very unlikely to happen.



With regards to the funding allocation, will Wanborough funds be used to support any struggling schools within the trust?

No. Any school with funding issues would work with the Trust to put in place a plan to move towards a more stable financial position. Funding allocated to other schools would not be used to support that.

Has the role of the Blue Kite CEO and team been stable?

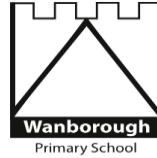
Yes. The initial team who set up the Trust in 2015 are still in place. The Central team has grown over time to match schools joining the Trust.

Will the school hours for Wanborough change?

No, not as a result of joining the Trust. That would be a local school decision should Wanborough decide to make any changes to the school's hours.

Are there any building benefits with Academy status?

If referring to capital or building projects then yes, the Trust are delegated funding (School Condition Allocation funding) specifically to maintain school buildings to provide a safe and secure environment for all children and staff.



Will the admissions application process change for Wanborough Primary School?

No, there will be no changes to that process.

Would Blue Kite be looking to make money commercially from the school? Nursery, Pre School, Sports/Hall lettings etc outside of school hours? If so, is that income then ringfenced for that specific school?

Yes, any additional income would remain with the school. We always encourage our schools - particularly in these financially challenging times – to find ways to generate additional income through other services and lettings etc. Any income generated as a result of that remains with the school.