

Dear parents

A combination of government policy and reduced resources in local government mean that Batheaston School will need to become part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) in the next year.

Within the next 12 months, BANES will no longer be able to support or oversee primary schools in the area. Therefore, all local primary schools are expected to join a MAT and/or become an Academy.

Batheaston is too small to become a standalone Academy, and it is not financially viable for us to do so. A MAT is a specific way of organising groups of schools in a single organisation. The status and structure of a MAT are subject to legal rules. In a MAT, it is the MAT itself, rather than an individual school, that is directly accountable to the Secretary of State for the educational outcomes and expenditure of each school in the group.

There are a number of MATs in our local area that Batheaston could apply to join. The decision of which MAT we would like to join needs to be made in the next few months and it is the Board of Governors that has the legal responsibility to apply to join a MAT.

This decision is a significant one, and may affect how Batheaston develops and grows in the coming years.

As governors, we would really like to share with you our investigations and findings about different MATs, as we come to make this important decision.

**We will be holding two open meetings at school, on 28 March.**

**One meeting will be after drop-off, at 9.15am, and the second in the evening at 6pm.** Please keep an eye out for the exact dates and times when we have them confirmed.

Both meetings have the same purpose and will share the same information. The meetings will be a chance to

- ask more about what a MAT is
- find out what it might mean for Batheaston
- let us know your concerns or priorities for Batheaston's future as part of a MAT
- find out how the Governing Body are approaching the process of selecting which MAT to apply to.

For parents and carers who are not able to make these meetings, copies of the information will be available in the school office and please let the governors know via the school office if you have particular questions, suggestions or concerns.

Batheaston governors