



*Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high –
celebrating difference – enriching community*

Frequently Asked Questions about Multi Academy Trusts for Staff, Parents and Carers

What is a Multi-Academy Trust ('Trust' from here onwards)?

A Trust is a legal entity that governs a group of schools through a single set of Trustees and has one budget for all the schools in the Trust.

What is the Trust Haytor View Primary School is planning to join?

Connect Academy Trust - [Connect Academy Trust • A Future For Everyone](#)

Which Schools are currently part of Connect Academy Trust (known as 'Connect')

The current family of Connect schools are set out below:

Cockington Primary School - [Cockington Primary School](#)

Eden Park Primary School - [Eden Park Primary & Nursery School](#)

Eggbuckland Primary School - [Eggbuckland Vale Primary School](#)

Leigham Primary School - [Home | Leigham Primary School](#)

Manadon Vale Primary School - [Manadon Vale Primary School](#)

Preston Primary School - [Preston Primary School](#)

Thornbury Primary School - [Thornbury Primary School](#)

Widey Court Primary School - [Widey Court Primary School](#)

Why are schools joining Trusts locally and nationally?

Across the country Local Authorities are being eroded in terms of size and power. Both Conservative and Labour Parties have indicated that their preferred educational structure is schools that are part of Trusts. Schools can use the strong collaboration and accountability afforded by the Trust to drive up standards and share best practice and services across the Trust, replacing the former Local Authority support.

What are some of the benefits of joining Connect?

- Each school in the Trust has it's own unique identity and designs it's own curriculum
- Improve overall academic standards
- Connect Schools are led at a local level, with a local Governing Body and retain their own values
- Ensure that decisions about the school are influenced at a local level

- Secure the long-term future of the school
- Share common teaching and learning practices across Connect schools
- Efficiencies in joint procurement which will help support our children, in difficult financial times
- Improved and different ways of governance with a clear focus on strategic development alongside other Trust schools, teaching and learning, and accountability
- Enhanced reputation for excellence, due to collaboration with other schools in the Trust
- Improved leadership, management and governance that impacts directly upon the children
- Recruitment, retention and growth of staff

Does the school need permission to convert to a Trust?

Yes. The school has had to obtain the permission of the Department of Education (DfE)

What changes will the children and parents/carers see?

There will be very little visible immediate changes as a direct result of joining Connect. The Headteacher, staff, uniform, premises and curriculum will all continue to be very much the same. The changes that we hope you'll see will be a continued improvement in the performance and running of the school and some new planned and improved services and options for our children and staff to benefit from.

Will the school's name change? No – We will still be Haytor View Primary School.

Will you be changing the uniform? No – The uniform and logo will remain the same for now.

Will the holidays or length of the school day change? No – These will remain the same for now.

When does the school join Connect? If the proposal is agreed by all parties, including the DfE, it is likely Haytor View would join Connect at some point in the Autumn term 2025.

How will joining Connect improve standards for our children?

This will enable us to utilise the expertise of staff and leaders from the other schools in Connect to accelerate progress for our children. We will benefit from a wider pool of specialists, enabling staff to focus on developing wider opportunities and exciting experiences. The talents of schools working together, become much greater than the sum of their individual parts.

How is funding organised within Connect?

Funding for schools within a Trust is allocated on an individual school basis. It is governed through a master funding agreement between the Secretary of State and the Trust. There will be a common financial procedures shared between Connect schools, but each school will be expected to maintain its own balanced budget, with support from the Connect Shared Services Team. There is likely to be some centralisation of finances and systems, where these make sense and result in economies of scale and more efficient ways of working.

What is the Connect structure?

Trusts are governed by one set of Members and a Board of Trustees who delegate certain responsibilities to the Executive Leadership Team, individual school Local Governing Body and Headteacher, as needed. When the school converts to a Trust, the role of the local governing body changes slightly. The overall Governance of the Trust is organised into three tiers of governance:

Members of Connect - responsible for fundamental decisions such as constitution of the academy trust – most strategic decisions are delegated to the Trustees.

Board of Trustees ('the Board'). The Board comprises the Trustees of the Trust who are the individuals who run the Trust on a day-to-day basis and will decide on what and where support is offered. They will also potentially offer centralised services such as HR, IT, Finance etc. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for all the schools in the Trust.

Local Governing Body (LGB) for each school. In Connect, each school has its own LGB, which are actually a committee of the Board of Trustees. LGBs have some, but not all, of the responsibilities of the old governing body, and the powers they have are those that are delegated to them by the Board of Trustees

Will working with other schools mean lowering our own standards or possibly detracting resources from our own school? No. We have chosen to work together other values-driven local schools to ensure that the vision, values and culture of Haytor View is central to everything that we do. Collaboration and sharing ideas and expertise can only help us improve.

Will Haytor View staff work at different Connect schools?

Our staff will remain in our school. Being part of Connect will provide a range of professional development opportunities. Staff from schools who are part of Connect will attend joint training, skills will be shared, and good practice will spread between the schools. There will be some exchange of staff for training and professional development purposes. There could be opportunities for Haytor View staff to work in other Connect Schools when opportunities arise and there may be some movement of staff in the future.

Do Connect schools follow the National Curriculum?

Yes, all schools within Connect teach the National Curriculum and have created bespoke provision for their school, which is broad, balanced and meets the needs of the children in that school.

Will there be any immediate changes in the leadership of Haytor View if we join Connect?

No, the current SLT in Haytor View will remain. In addition, Connect's Executive Leadership Team will support all aspects of the school, including the educational provision, buildings, and safeguarding procedures.

If you have any questions or comments on this proposals, please email:

consultation@haytorview.devon.sch.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact our Acting Headteacher, Miss Butler, or our Chair of Governors Mr Robert Doets.