

## Trust Status Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. Will Trust Status change what students learn?
  - A. *Like all maintained schools, Trust Schools teach the National Curriculum and will still be inspected by Ofsted. The school chooses partners to support its vision and priorities.*
2. Q. What would change if Crawshaw School became a Trust School?
  - A. *The school would change category to become a foundation school and acquire a Trust. This means that the school will take on two new areas of responsibility: 1) The Governing Body will be the employer of the staff rather than the local authority (LA). 2) The Governing Body will be responsible for setting admissions arrangements (in accordance with the law of the Admissions Code The Governing Body would also continue to have day to day control of the school's land and buildings (which the Trust would hold on trust for the school)*
3. Q. How is a Trust School different from a maintained school?
  - A. *It isn't. Trust Schools are part of the family of local authority (LA) maintained schools.*
4. Q. Are Trust Schools the same as the old Grant Maintained (GM) Schools?
  - A. *No, Trust Schools remain part of the local authority family, where as GM Schools 'opted out' and were funded directly. GM Schools were allowed to select students by ability, whereas Trust Schools act in accordance with the Admissions Code and are not able to introduce any new selection by ability.*
5. Q. Is a Trust School like an Academy?
  - A. *No, Academies are state-funded schools established and managed by sponsors. They are set up with the backing of the LA but are not maintained by the LA.*
6. Q. What will happen to admissions?
  - A. *The school will set its own admissions arrangements within the same legal framework as all the other maintained schools. Trust Schools have the same duties in relation to the education of children with Special Educational Needs. There is no difference in the assessment and statementing processes. It will continue to admit students whose statements name the school and will play a full part in taking hard to place students*

7. Q. How will the school be funded?
- A. *Trust Schools are funded on the same basis as other maintained schools, according to the LA's funding formula. They are allocated their own capital money on the same basis as other schools.*
8. Q. Will the Trust partners make a profit out of the school?
- A. *No. The school budget will go directly to the Governing Body, not the Trust. Trusts are not-for-profit charities – any income must be used to support their charitable aims.*
9. Q. Can a Trust School dispose of surplus non-playing field land?
- A. *Yes, if the Trust wants to dispose of land, it will have to consult the Governing Body of the school. If the Governing Body wants to dispose of land, it must ask the Trust to agree. In practice as the Governing Body includes Trust appointed Governors, this should be a fairly automatic process. The Trust must inform the LA of their plans to dispose of non-playing field land. LA's can object to proposals if they feel they are not in the interests of the school in the long term, or would disadvantage the wider community. Trust Schools will be able to benefit directly from the disposal of land but all proceeds must be used for capital investment in educational assets. The Trust itself will not be able to profit from any such disposals.*
10. Q. Does the Trust run the school?
- A. *No. The Trust will support the school but will not take it over or run it. The school has a Governing Body which is responsible and accountable for all major decisions about the school and its future. Governors have a legal responsibility to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. They work with the Headteacher to set the school's vision and strategic aims, monitor and evaluate performance, approve the school's budget and ensure that the school is accountable to those who it serves.*
11. Q. Will the role of the Governing Body change?
- A. *No. A Trust School Governing Body will continue to include parents and staff, governors from the community and LA, as well as the governors that the Trust appoints.*
12. Q. What if something goes wrong?
- A. *Acquiring a Trust is a permanent relationship but there is a process to remove the Trust if the school fails or if there is real dissatisfaction at the Trust's performance. There are also safeguards to prevent unsuitable organisations from forming a Trust for a school in order to ensure that a Trust can be removed if there are serious problems.*