



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – The amalgamation of our School Trusts

Parents and Carers

1. Why are the trusts amalgamating?

The amalgamation aims to create a stronger, more efficient, and resourceful academy trust. By combining resources, expertise, and governance, the new trust will be better equipped to support the schools within the group, drive improvements in educational outcomes, and ensure long-term sustainability. The amalgamation also allows us to streamline operations, reduce duplication, and create greater opportunities for collaboration and growth.

2. What impact will the amalgamation have on school funding?

The amalgamation is expected to bring efficiencies and greater financial stability for all schools involved. By combining resources, the new trust will be better positioned to access funding opportunities, negotiate better terms with suppliers, and share costs across schools. This will allow for more effective financial planning and greater investment in key areas such as teaching and learning, school infrastructure, and staff development. Each school will retain all individual school self-generated income and funds, such as the PTA and school clubs.

3. How will this amalgamation affect pupils and their education?

The focus of the amalgamation is to maintain and improve the quality of education for all pupils. While there may be operational changes at the trust level, the day-to-day learning environment for pupils will largely remain the same. The amalgamation will allow us to share best practices, resources, and staff expertise, enhancing the educational experience for pupils across all schools in the trust.

4. Who will lead the Connect Alliance Trust?

The CEO/Executive Headteacher will be Elizabeth Hardy (currently at M20 Learning Trust)

The Chief Finance and Operations Officer will be Christina Smith (currently at M20 Learning Trust)

The Director of Education will be Jayne Kennedy (currently at Link Learning Trust)

The Director of HR, Governance and Compliance will be Joan Pennington (currently at Link Learning Trust)

Together they will form the trust's Central Executive Team.

5. What day-to-day changes will take place at the schools?

There will be no day-to-day changes (as these will remain with the leadership of the school) including no changes to the uniform, school hours, or overall operations of the school.

6. Will Connect Alliance Trust be committed to promoting the UNICEF Rights Respecting Agenda?

Yes. The trust is committed to a child's rights approach based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Creating safe and inspiring places to learn where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive.

7. Will there be any changes to the curriculum?

The core aim of the amalgamation is to strengthen educational provision across all schools in the trust. The curriculum will remain broad and balanced, but the amalgamation may offer new opportunities for sharing best practices, developing resources, and providing pupils with more diverse learning experiences.

8. What will be the impact on our children with Special Educational Needs?

There will be no change to the level of support provided by the schools. The schools will continue to recognise that every child has the right to be included as a valued, respected and equal member of the school community.

9. What changes will there be in governance and leadership?

There will be a new single board of trustees overseeing the newly merged trust, with representation from both existing trusts. Leadership structures at individual schools may evolve to support the larger, unified trust, but the primary focus will be to ensure effective leadership at both the trust level and within each individual school.

10. Will the school's name change after the amalgamation?

No, the trust has no plans to change any of the schools names as each school will keep its own name and its unique identity that already aligns with the newly merged

academy trust vision and values. The newly amalgamated multi academy trust will be renamed Connect Alliance Trust.

11. How will parents and communities be kept informed during the amalgamation process?

We recognise that effective communication is key during any transition. We will provide updates through our regular channels of school communication meetings, and keep everyone informed throughout the amalgamation process. Additionally, there will be opportunities for parents and carers to ask questions and provide feedback during consultation periods.

12. How will the amalgamation affect the school's relationship with the local authority?

The amalgamation will not diminish the importance of the relationship between the schools and their local authorities. The local authority is hugely supportive of our amalgamation. The new trust will continue to engage with MCC and other stakeholders to ensure that we meet the needs of our pupils.

13. How long will the amalgamation process take?

The amalgamation of the two trusts will take effect on September 1, 2025. We will keep all stakeholders informed of progress and key dates throughout the process.

14. What support will be available for staff during the amalgamation?

Throughout the amalgamation, there will be dedicated support for staff to ensure they are informed, involved, and supported. This will include access to regular updates, and opportunities for staff to ask questions and provide feedback.

15. What happens next after the amalgamation is completed?

Once the amalgamation is completed, the new trust will continue to focus on improving educational outcomes for pupils, supporting staff, and engaging with local communities. The priority will be to build on the strengths of the individual trusts, creating a unified and strong organisation that is well positioned for future growth and success. Regular reviews will take place to assess the impact of the amalgamation and to ensure that the trust is delivering on its vision and strategic goals.

16. Who can I contact for more information?

We are holding consultation open evenings at each school to answer any questions or concerns; alternatively your feedback may be recorded via the online consultation form launched on March 10th 2025.

We are committed to providing clear and transparent communication throughout the process.