



Statement for ADMAT Stakeholders

Extending Membership of the MAT

"Gateway to Learning"



What is being proposed?

The An Daras Trust (ADMAT) in Launceston currently consists of two schools; St Stephens Community Academy and Windmill Hill Academy and was established on 1st January 2014.

The Board of Directors of ADMAT, the Local Governing Bodies of St Stephens Community Academy and Windmill Hill Academy and the Governing Bodies at St Catherines Primary and the Federation of North Petherwin and Werrington are considering a proposal to make a significant change to the existing MAT by extending the membership of the An Daras Trust to fully include the latter three schools named above.

Any decision on whether or not to extend the MAT membership will be taken by ADMAT Directors based on what is considered best for our Trust, our students, our staff and for the wider local Launceston community. As part of the decision making process, the Board of Directors are committed to undertaking full consultation with our stakeholders and will take their views into account before any final decision is taken. The purpose of this statement is, therefore, to introduce the proposals to you, signpost you to where you can find additional information and inform you how you can take part in the consultation.

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A Multi Academy Trust is a family of schools forming a 'Multi Academy Trust' (MAT) under a Shared Company. The essential principles of the model are that local schools work in partnership to improve the educational provision and standards for pupils, it involves no external business sponsorship and there will be no change to the distinctive and individual nature of any of the schools in the current Trust arrangement. The Department for Education are encouraging existing MATs to expand their membership to ensure solid local collaboration is delivering sustainability in educational excellence.

Why expand?

Expanding upon the current Multi-Academy Trust model will enable all our schools to share resources and services even more effectively and to provide consistent and continuous support for young people in the wider Launceston area in keeping with our Trust vision detailed below:

Vision Statement

To be the primary gateway for life-long learning ensuring every child in the Multi Academy Trust is equipped for present and future success.

Core Aim

We are committed to improving the life chances of children by delivering high quality academic, social, economic and experiential learning to raise aspirations and contribute effectively to positive personal development.

We will achieve this by;

- Accelerating and sustaining children's progress towards higher achievement.
- Ensuring achievement gaps for disadvantaged children are addressed.
- Ensuring children are equipped for the next phase of learning.
- Creating an enjoyable and creative curriculum that meets the learning needs of children.
- Providing for children a safe, stimulating, caring but challenging learning environment.
- Encouraging children's active participation in outdoor and sporting learning opportunities.

- Working positively with stakeholders and partners to provide an integrated educational experience for children and families.

What will change?

Under the proposed MAT expansion governance arrangements of our member schools would remain largely unchanged. The majority of governors on the Local Governing Bodies would be appointed as currently and there would be staff and parent governors as now. The overarching Multi Academy Trust Board of Directors consisting of representatives from each school Local Governing Body plus co-opted directors with particular skills or from the local community would remain.

The expansion proposal provides the opportunity to work together in partnership through a supportive Multi Academy Trust which builds on the collaborative structures already established since An Daras MAT was created in January 2014. This will give extended opportunities to share good teaching and learning, join together to buy resources and develop a collaborative way of working for the benefit of all our children and families and create a pathway for the long term sustainability of all of our schools.

We have a vision for education in the wider Launceston area that goes beyond individual schools and changes our perception from 'my school', to 'all of our schools'. The challenge for us all is 'How can we share our gifts and talents to ensure all education for all of our children is 'outstanding.'

A number of other elements would remain unchanged. Individual academies would still be bound by the statutory codes for Special Educational Needs and the Admissions criteria and catchment areas for each school would remain unchanged. There are no planned changes to the pay and conditions of staff, to the start and finish times or length of the school day and no change to the individual school's policy on pupil discipline or the school uniform.

Our schools will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. However, an academy is not bound by the prescriptions of the national curriculum and Local Governors are conscious that this freedom could offer an additional safeguard from an imposed wider national agenda or curriculum which may not accord with the local contextual learning requirements of pupils in the wider Launceston area.

All our proposed member schools have excellent relationships with their Local Authority and work well in partnership with the local community. That commitment to wider partnership working will remain and we will work with our Local Authorities across a wide range of providers in an atmosphere of mutual support.

The diagram shows the organisational structure of the proposed expanded MAT.

ADMAT Members				
Individual school nominated member				
ADMAT Board of Directors				
Education Directors, Business Directors, Community Directors, Premises Directors, Local Governing Body Directors				
ADMAT Operations Team				
Executive Head Teacher, Academy Improvement Officer, Academy Safeguarding Officer, Academy Business Manager, School Leaders				
ADMAT Committees				
Improvement and Strategic Development, Resources and Staffing (including Audit), Local Governing Bodies				
School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5
Local Governing Body	Local Governing Body	Local Governing Body	Local Governing Body	Local Governing Body
School Leaders	School Leaders	School Leaders	School Leaders	School Leaders
Pupils, Parents and Staff	Pupils, Parents and Staff	Pupils, Parents and Staff	Pupils, Parents and Staff	Pupils, Parents and Staff

What are the challenges?

There are the perceptions of schools “going it alone” and of a “two tier” system with a disregard for disadvantaged schools and the notion of instability for staff in terms of pay and conditions. Our model addresses both of these challenges.

How will the consultation work?

The consultation period will run from **Thursday 18th June 2015** to **Thursday 16th July 2015**. The Board of Directors are consulting with all our combined stakeholders including:

- The Truro Diocesan Board of Education
- Parish Priests and the Christian Community
- School Governors
- Parents and known future parents
- Pupils
- Staff including Staff unions and associations
- The Cornwall Local Authority
- Elected representatives (local MPs, Councillors)
- The wider local community including voluntary groups associated with the schools
- Parish Councils

How can I make my views known?

You are invited to submit your comments and views using the following e-mail:

ststephens@andaras.org

In addition, you are welcome to attend the Consultation events listed below. Any views expressed at the meetings will be captured and included in the final considerations of the Board of Directors.

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting Timetable:

St Stephens Community Academy – Main Hall on **Monday 29th June 2015**

Before I give my views where can I find out more information?

Further information generally on Academies provided by the DfE can be found on:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>

An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

