

## Frequently Asked Questions - The local authority

### Does this sever links with the LA? Does this undermine public service provision?

It's true that foundation trust schools have more freedom than community schools, however, a Trust school remains an integral part of the family of Local Authority maintained schools:

- it will still be funded by the Local Authority on the same basis as other schools;
- it will have to act in accordance with the Admissions Code;
- the Local Authority will be able to intervene in a Trust school as in any other school if it is failing or underperforming; and
- the Local Authority will be able to publish proposals to close the school and to make certain changes to the school, as it can with any maintained school

### Is this causing more fragmentation, negative impact on other LA schools and a diminution of power for the LA?

Trust schools remain LA maintained schools with the LA having the same powers of intervention as in any other type of maintained school. Governing bodies have the same democratically elected constituencies thus: -

- Parent governors: at least one-third;
- Staff governors: at least two places but no more than one-third, including the headteacher;
- Local Authority appointed governors: at least one but no more than one-fifth;
- Community governors: at least one-tenth; PLUS
- Foundation governors; at least two but no more than one quarter.

Although the GB becomes the employer of staff, the school still has to work closely with the LA in ensuring that all employment rights are met such as continuity of service, maternity, redundancy and retirement matters, exactly as it does with all VA schools currently. Teaching staff would stay in the Teachers Pension Scheme and would not be subject to any change. Non-teaching staff are allowed to continue to be in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

### Can our LA funding be reduced if trust has funds from private sources?

No, Trust schools are funded via the LA in the same way as other maintained schools. Trust schools also remain a full part of the local asset management planning process, and are treated equally in terms of government support for capital investment. As with all other maintained schools, the LA will remain responsible for funding the maintenance of a Trust school's buildings and Trust schools will continue to receive devolved capital funding on the same basis as other maintained schools that they can invest according to their individual priorities. There is no funding reserved centrally for Trust schools. Trust schools will have the same flexibility as foundation schools (VA & VC) to manage their own assets, while remaining part of the LA planning process for capital spending. This has already worked successfully with foundation schools.