

## Collated Comments received via Email during the MAT Consultation Period

(12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016)

**Comment 1: Could Pershore High School form a MAT with other Schools in addition? (with other First Schools in the area)?**

**Response to Comment 1:** *One school cannot be part of more than one MAT. Other schools (not limited to First Schools or indeed the local area) may wish to join the proposed MAT at various points in the future; the decision on which schools could join the MAT and when will be the responsibility of the MAT members and trustees, who will ensure that the incoming school shares the same ethos, vision and values whilst recognising that for a school to join there must be a benefit to the schools, and importantly the children at those schools, in the current MAT.*

**Comment 2: Is Pershore High already in MAT with other Schools?**

**Response to Comment 2:** *No. Pershore High School has been a "stand alone" academy since 2011.*

**Comment 3: Is admissions for new starters affected at any of the schools?**

**Response to Comment 3:** *There are no planned changes to admission arrangements as a direct result of the formation of the proposed MAT. As academies however, schools become their own admissions authority, taking this responsibility from the Local Authority. If they wish to alter their admissions policies at some stage in the future this would be a separate process that would require consultation.*

**Comment 4: Why is no Middle School involved - seems to leave a continuity gap? The letter states the reason for the MAT is educational reasons - transition between Schools is a big educational reason for each stage to be represented.**

**Response to Comment 4:** *Some of the Pershore pyramid middle schools have chosen different options, such as the Diocese of Worcester MAT. The four schools proposing forming this MAT share the same vision, ethos and passion to improve the education and hence life choices for all children in the Pershore pyramid. Irrespective of which MATs the First, Middle and High schools ultimately become part of, all of the schools recognise that transition is vitally important to the education and wellbeing of the children involved. They will continue to have an overriding responsibility, as they do currently, to strive to make transition as effective as possible.*

Thank you for your time in reading my comments.

**Comment 5:** I have grave misgiving about the proposed MAT between Pershore High School and three of its feeder first schools, simply because it clearly signals your continued intent to pursue a two tier system in the face of the overwhelming rejection of your previous proposal. Although all schools in the pyramid should work together to ensure the best educational outcomes, without the three middle schools in the mix then there is little benefit to be had in this formal collaboration. Have the middle school heads been asked whether they would like to join? I recognise that after your previous change of age consultation there must be precious little good will existing between the second and third tier of the pyramid and that they are all likely to be quickly finding their own MATs to join.

All I want for my children (currently in YR2, 5 and 9) is a stable educational environment where school leaders focus on the quality of teaching and learning rather than building an empire or a legacy. Having been responsible for lighting the touch paper with your previous consultation, I feel it behoves you to begin to bring the pyramid of schools back together again, whereas this MAT pushes in the opposite direction. I hope that the Diocese, who will probably find the three middle schools under its umbrella will argue against your divisive proposal.

I am afraid I am unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday and hence have put my thoughts down on paper.

**Response to Comment 5:** *Thank you for your email. You raise a number of complex issues that really deserve face to face discussion. I am very happy to meet if you would like to contact Mrs Day, my PA. I believe that two Middle Schools have already chosen the route of a much larger Diocesan MAT. I also need to make it clear that it is not my proposal, indeed it began its life with the first schools contacting Pershore High School. It is therefore a proposed collaborative arrangement and nothing to do with legacy or empire building. The head teachers of all first and middle schools met many months ago and recognised that under government policy we were free to make our own decisions over which MAT to join, but still determined to work together for the benefit of all children within the pyramid. I really do hope to have the chance to meet to discuss things.*

**Comment 6:** I wanted to thank you for a very informative meeting last week where I was able to obtain more information about your proposal to form a Multi-academy Trust with Cherry Orchard First School, Inkberrow First School and Pershore High School. I would like to let you know that any questions / concerns that I had regarding NJK forming part of the Multi-Academy Trust were answered during the meeting. I am now feeling very positive about the way forward and can see that it will benefit pupils. Thank you for taking time to meet with parents as part of this consultation period. Please could you extend this thanks to staff/headteachers and governors at the other schools. It really did demonstrate the group commitment to the proposal.