

What is a School Trust?

School Trusts are groups of schools that come together to form a single organisation. They are sometimes called Multi-Academy Trusts or MATs, but we prefer School Trusts because the word 'school' is universally understood and best describes what academies are.

School Trusts are specialist charities with one legal and moral purpose - to run and improve schools to advance education for public benefit. Like any other state school, schools in a Trust are free to attend, are inspected in the same way, and children take the same exams. They comprise primary, secondary, all-through, special, alternative provision, 16-19, and mainstream schools.

Why are School Trusts successful?

Many schools now work together in a group as one entity to improve and maintain high educational standards across the group. Where a Trust runs a group of schools, it has the power to create a collaborative framework.

A group of schools working together in a single entity can do lots of things that are harder for stand-alone schools to do:

- Teachers work and learn together to improve the way they teach;
- Schools share practices that make a difference to the quality of teaching;
- Teachers and leaders can work together on the things that matter - like curriculum and assessment;
- Schools can improve - only one in 10 schools that were required to join a trust were judged good or outstanding before they converted, compared with almost seven in 10 after they joined a trust (of those that had been inspected);
- It is more possible for teachers and leaders to move to another school to help improve the quality of education where that school is struggling - and these moves are more likely to be to schools with more disadvantaged pupils; and
- It is more possible to be efficient - and thereby to invest money in supporting pupils to have wider opportunities.

CST is the national organisation and sector body for School Trusts - advocating for, connecting and supporting Trusts.

Find out how CST can support you by visiting our website cstuk.org.uk