



## Hatfield Community Free School Trust (HCFST)

HCFS opened in 2012 as a 'Free School' or 'Single Academy Trust' (SAT). Over time, SATs and other individual schools have decided to join families of schools to enhance opportunities for professional collaboration and growth, and to foster more sustainable futures. After strategic discussions in our Board meetings, we believe it is the right time to explore future options for HCFST.

This exploration will be a collaborative effort between the Trust Board and Senior Leadership Team, with a small working group responsible for conducting much of the research. The main options for HCFS to consider are:

- remaining as a SAT
- forming a new MAT\*
- joining an existing MAT

This project aims to explore the benefits and drawback of each option and produce recommendations. The process will not be rushed and there will be regular communications and consultation with staff, parents, and other stakeholders. The working party will conduct the investigation throughout the 2025-2026 academic year.

We will set up a frequently asked questions [\(FAQs\) page](#) for you to raise questions, and we will post answers as soon as we are able.

Ultimately, the Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for approving any change in a school's status. We will follow their advice and keep them informed throughout this process.

*\*A MAT is a group of aligned schools/academies that come together to form a trust.*

Mrs Maxine Kinghorn  
Chair of Trustees

Mrs Victoria Hobson  
Principal