

Multi Academy Trust Peer Review

The Challenge Partners Multi Academy Trust (MAT) Peer Review enables development and improvement in host MATs through challenge and collaboration. It provides reviewers with unique insights to support their own MAT's development, and helps share knowledge about what works across the education system so all can benefit.

The MAT Peer Review:

- Evaluates the MAT on its own terms
- Is sharply focused on school improvement and the impact the MAT has on outcomes
- Captures and shares effective practice
- Identifies areas for improvement
- Provides input on key challenges facing the MAT
- Is expert-facilitated
- Is done with, not to, the host MAT
- Provides powerful CPD and insight for reviewers, which benefits their own MATs
- Builds evidence of what works in MAT school improvement

How it works

Led by an independent expert over three-days, the external review team works with host MAT leaders to build a picture of how school improvement operates across the trust and the impact it is having. This informs professional dialogue about strengths, areas for development and next steps, which are captured in a written report. There is also the opportunity for the host MAT to harness the expertise of their peers to explore a particular challenge they are facing and identify ways forward.

The MAT Peer Review relies on asking powerful, open questions in a spirit of appreciative inquiry and collaboration. We know all MATs are different and that there is not a single formula for MAT success, so our reviews do not start with a framework or checklist, or otherwise presume to know “the answer”. The review does not check compliance or provide an audit of finance, governance or HR – though we do consider how these important factors contribute to school improvement.



Our impact

Our MAT Peer Review has been independently evaluated by the NFER. Without exception, participants in the MAT Peer Review process found it to be of great value.

“A fascinating insight into how other MATs are organised, changing and improving. Being a reviewer gave me perspectives across all aspects: staff, leadership, governance, etc and this was really helpful in understanding how the MAT operated as well as providing real insights into my own situation. Reflection after the review has led to some substantial change here.” Carolyn Morgan, CEO, Ascent Academies Trust

“The Challenge Partners MAT review process was a unique professional development opportunity for me as a member of the review team.” Pippa Bremner, School Development Director, Danes Educational Trust

For more information please email liz.smisen@challengepartners.org, call 020 7803 4970, or visit www.challengepartners.org/mat-peer-review