

How Marches Academy Trust have revolutionised how they collect, share and analyse data with MAT MIS



Marches Academy Trust is a 11-school mixed-phase MAT, who moved to Arbor in 2019. Andy Lowe, Director of Information Management, speaks to us about the impact Arbor's MAT MIS has had on the way they support their schools across the trust.

Marches Academy Trust is a medium-sized trust with over 6,350 students, spread across a radius of 1,218 miles! When looking for a new MIS, Andy needed a system that helped them communicate and share information and data with their schools without having to physically travel around the country.

“MAT MIS has enabled us to better stay in touch with our schools, get the data without necessarily having to visit, and harness the power of the PowerBI Connector to collect and analyse data.”



Marches Academy Trust



Andy Lowe

MAT Director of Information Management and Attendance Lead



Multi-Academy Trust



5 Primaries, 5 Secondaries and 1 Specialist



Students: 6,350



Located: Shropshire



Centralising data collection

Before moving to Arbor, Marches Academy Trust found that collecting and collating data was so complex the central team would only ask for the absolutely essential information.

Since moving to Arbor and using MAT MIS, Andy says “Arbor has not only allowed us to collect data centrally, we are able to manipulate it much more easily.” Andy goes on to say that the “collection of KPIs has become much easier and we are increasingly able to use an evidence-based approach when assessing what support our schools need and when!”

Democratisation of data

MAT MIS isn't just for the trust Data Lead or SLT, it's been designed to improve ways of working for all MAT central staff. “Staff appreciate the intuitive way in which Arbor works,” says Andy, “inclusions staff love the ability to democratise the information they hold, rather than holding it in silos, and this has led to huge savings in time sending emails.”

The benefit of having all your trust data in one central place that everyone can access has a big impact on how you run your trust. “Democratisation of information has allowed us to reduce silo working to an absolute minimum and thereby improve our responsiveness when students begin to experience problems. We are increasingly able to use our data not only to respond but anticipate problems before they arise.”

Improving student outcomes with data

What sits at the heart of every trust is the need to improve student outcomes. Arbor gives MATs the ability to share information. “The Custom Report Writer has enabled us to create a holistic framework across all our schools and trust whereby we can 'categorise' each child and work out if the Universal Offer is meeting their need, or whether they need extra support,” says Andy, making it quicker and easier for them to act.

What advice would you give another MAT we want to centralise their data?

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Don't hesitate. Use the change to review your systems critically and think about doing things in a new or different way! The changeover is a massive opportunity to do things better, differently and more efficiently!

Andy Lowe, MAT Director of Information Management and Attendance Lead

