

The Active Learning Trust

Our Vision

Our vision is to drive up standards in all the schools and settings we work with so that they can achieve a good Ofsted rating and have the capacity to reach the Outstanding judgement from Ofsted. We will do this by maximising our impact at school level, both with schools in need of significant improvement and with those that are already good and we will work with currently outstanding schools both to maintain that judgement and use their expertise to support others. Through this approach we will build a broad professional partnership of Academies that share the same vision and values represented by the Trust.

Specifically we will:

- Support the drive to raise standards in all schools, through sponsorship and the deployment of our own team of experienced school improvers and with the support of existing high performing schools
- Continually improve our capacity to ensure that the quality of what we deliver remains at an outstandingly high level by ensuring there are strong systems of performance management in place in all schools to support improvement, seeking out and valuing excellent performance and by ensuring good value for money,
- Ensure the delivery of high quality education through our Academies to support pupils across all age ranges from the early years to post 16
- Ensure there is strong governance and financial probity across the Trust and its schools
- Work with LAs and the Regional Schools Commissioner on school organisation issues to address local communities' demand for the provision of high quality school places locally
- Develop the leadership, management and governance in all our schools so that we grow and maintain the best leaders, and either lead or act as a partner with a Teaching School network to grow the next generation of effective teachers, school leaders, support staff and governors
- Establish a strong professional partnership of Active Learning Trust Academies so that they can stimulate and support each other across all aspects of teaching and learning and leadership and management.
- Establish, and where appropriate deliver, high quality professional development for all staff so we can maximise the opportunities for advancement within schools and the Trust more widely
- Provide value for money advice and, where applicable, services to our schools that minimise administration locally and maximise the potential for our managers to be leaders in their schools. The Trust will fully utilise procurement strategies, particularly in terms of IT, to provide cost effective solutions and operations within and across its schools.
- Ensure as a business that the Trust maximises the potential for income and maintains a high level of control on costs which provides long term security for the Trust and its schools.

In our role as sponsor we will:

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- Ensure there is an unremitting focus on improvement in our schools, through our leadership, challenge and support role. We will focus on every pupil being able to achieve his or her potential and through that, have highly performing schools that are proud of their achievements and have a relentless focus on continuous improvement.
- Transform the leadership and governance arrangements in our schools, ensuring that staff have access to high quality support, advice and challenge with a focus on school improvement, including discipline and behaviour for learning. Our focus as sponsor will be on the value we add to individual schools, backed by our strength in being able to utilise data and other information to ensure that our resources are targeted across the board (for example on work with underperforming groups) to where they can make the most impact.
- Work with our schools to maximise the use of continually developing technology, to develop and sustain a stimulating curriculum and learning environment in school and beyond that supports both teachers and learners and establish effective professional networks across all the Trust's schools. We will specifically use web technology to expand access to resources through, for example, providing examples of outstanding lessons as exemplars of excellent practice for other colleagues
- Unlock the potential to highlight and share excellent practice through professional collaboration; we see one of our key roles as being the provision of mechanisms to enable this to happen in an easy and cost effective way
- Support our school leaders through the provision of high quality advice and well-targeted staff CPD, particularly through our Leading Active Learning Programme while ensuring value for money in the provision of services, maximising the funds available for teaching and learning
- Use the expertise in the Trust and, as we go forward, the expertise of excellent school leaders and teachers in Trust and partner schools, to identify areas of improvement and action planning to implement that improvement, so that we reach our goal of all Trust schools being outstanding schools
- Continue to develop our hub model, to aid improvement and communication. This will include the hubs developing joint working of school staff and governing bodies, sharing good practice and developing their role as challenge partners
- Develop outstanding new schools approved during 2016 and propose new schools in the future which meet pupil place demand
- Ensure that budgetary control is strong and that we maintain a close relationship with the Department for Education and the Education Schools Funding Agency to ensure budget planning for the longer term is secure.