



Northern Lights
LEARNING TRUST

Come
and join
**Northern
Lights
Learning
Trust**



Northern Lights Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust with schools across Sunderland and Hartlepool.

We are proud of our diversity, which brings strength to our Trust.

Our fully inclusive Trust includes small and larger schools, Church and non-faith schools – a range of communities and a wealth of expertise.

OUR SCHOOLS



Hart Primary School
Hartlepool



St. Peter's Elwick Cof E Primary School,
Hartlepool



Benedict Biscop CE Academy
Sunderland



St. Helen's Primary School
Hartlepool (joining April 2022)



Holley Park Academy
Washington, Sunderland (joining May 2022)

Our Trust is built on our core vision and values

Our vision is to provide excellent holistic education for all pupils, alongside high quality staff development, to ensure everyone can be their authentic best self.

Our values run through all of our decisions and actions:

Voice of the Child:

Every child has a voice that deserves to be heard

Community: *Every school is at the heart of their community*

Support: *A solid foundation to always help one another*

Integrity: *Retain honesty, humility and authenticity*

Pride: *Proud of all we achieve and the difference we make*

Why be part of our Trust?

We know our schools are stronger together:

- Improved outcomes for pupils
- Financial benefits – reducing outgoings and shared purchasing power
- Collaborative working:
 - Networks for shared research and development
 - Subject leaders, SENDCos, safeguarding supervision, admin teams
 - All Headteachers become part of the Executive Leadership Team – meeting regularly to work on school development; and
 - Peer review programme
- Executive and Central Team expertise
- Opportunities to save money through shared services
- Central support to enable you to focus on core purpose of education



We are one of only 87 teaching school hubs in the country – school-led centres of excellence for teacher and leadership training.

- Autonomy to retain the distinctiveness of your school
- Retain Local Governing Body
- Clear scheme of delegation
- Expertise of school improvement and teacher development team: trained Ofsted inspector, trained SIAMS inspector (Church schools), NLE, SLEs, school and Trust support, subject expertise
- Opportunity to be an integral part of the

DfE 'golden thread' of teacher development

- A voice on a national level – DfE Primary Headteacher Reference Group Chair, various DfE, Ofsted, national and regional advisory groups; meet with ministers and key people sharing the Northern Lights voice
- A registered sponsor Trust – approved by the DfE to support schools joining our Trust
- Development and support for Governors
- The opportunity to contribute to our Trust – you will shape the Trust as it grows.

If you are considering joining our Trust, now is a key time in its growth – we are evolving and developing as we increase in size and scope. Your voice will be heard.

So how does it work?

We work in collaboration. As a maintained school, the Local Authority retains funding that then provides services. A Multi Academy Trust retains funding in the same way, but this provides specific bespoke services and the amount is reviewed annually.

Our current centrally provided services include:

EDUCATIONAL

- Access to the development opportunities provided by our Teaching School Hub, including CPD and opportunity to train as NPQ visiting fellows and ECF facilitators
- ITT provider of teacher training in partnership with Durham SCITT – opportunity to contribute to ITT as well as host students
- CPD program quality assured in line with Teaching School Hub, National Support School and Science Hub in the Trust
- Opportunity to work in partnership across the Trust with NLE, SLEs, practising Ofsted and SIAMS inspectors and wide range of expertise
- Curriculum Leader Networks (English, Maths, Early Years). Share learning, best practice, meet regularly and work on research evidence specific to their area. High performing schools and practitioners.
- A range of other

Networks across the Trust including SEND and Administrators. Sharing and learning together

- Moderation across the Trust
- Trust CPD and annual conference
- Regular Executive Leadership Meetings to discuss operational matters and work collaboratively to lead our Trust. All Heads are members of the Executive Leadership Team
- Half termly Strategic School Improvement Group Meetings focusing on educational research, pedagogy and practice – open to SLT
- Headteacher and SLT Peer review programme

- Headteacher coaching provided by CEO (NLE, Ofsted experience).

GOVERNANCE

- Termly Governance briefings
- Access to Governance Training.

HR/FINANCE/ESTATES

- Health, Safety and Environmental Service
- Estates support, including CIF bids for capital funding for our schools
- Finance
- HR
- GDPR
- Legal support
- Data protection
- Policies
- Compliance
- Safeguarding. ▶



OTHER

- Regular updates on guidance to reassure schools they are up to date and have not missed important information
- Direct support from CEO and COFO (Chief Operations and Finance Officer)
- Admin support from Central Team
- Opportunities to develop pupil links, including School Council shared projects
- The opportunity to influence policy and decisions through input into a range of stakeholders
- Bespoke support brokered whenever needed
- Support from a skilled Board of Directors including ex HMI, Health and Safety Consultant, Legal experts, Chartered Accountant, HR employment solicitor, CEO of a neighbouring Trust, marketing expertise and DfE Performance Risk and Governance Manager
- Trust policies written centrally and school specific policies provided with principles/template to relieve workload.
- Paperwork streamlined in partnership with schools and produced centrally to relieve workload - associate schools can have access to this.
- Safeguarding supervision peer system in development
- Compliance Checks to reassure - SCR and website.

Meet our growing Central Team



Jo Heaton



Hayley Swinhoe



Olivia Graham



Emily Sanger

We are expanding our Central Team.

Look out for appointments of our **Director of Education** and **Deputy Director of Teaching School Hub**



Zoe Thompson



Keely Smith



Nicola Jaconelli

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Jo Heaton OBE**

Experienced CEO, Executive Headteacher, NLE, Ofsted inspector, Chair DfE Primary Headteacher Reference Group, member of national DfE expert advisory groups.

Chief Operations and Finance Officer (COFO)

Hayley Swinhoe

Experienced COFO, experience in schools and wider sectors.

Business Management Assistant

Olivia Graham

HR Assistant

Emily Sanger

Director of Teaching School Hub

Zoe Thompson

Admin/Relations Manager

Keely Smith

Teaching School Admin Assistant

Nicola Jaconelli

OUR TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

Accredited by the Department for Education, we are a DfE designated Teaching School Hub.



Northern Lights Teaching

School Hub is one of only 87 designated centres of excellence across the country. As a key part of the education system, we lead teacher development from initial teacher training, through Early Career Framework as an "appropriate body", delivering the full suite of NPQs and wider CPD for Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Mainstream, Special Education and Alternative Provision. We currently work with over 300 schools in the North East.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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