

# Bolshaw Primary School



*Welcome to*  
**Bolshaw Governing Board's**  
**Presentation to Parents / Carers**

*Consultation on*  
*Conversion to Academy Status*  
*and joining the*  
*Honeycomb Education Trust*

*Thursday 14th March 2024 - 5.30pm*





**“Why is Bolshaw Primary School proposing to become an academy?”**

**Why now?**

**What would you like to know about our proposal to join a MAT?**

**What do you think the benefits will be?**

**What are your concerns about the proposed move?**

**Question and Answer session.**

**“How can our school best collaborate with others in a strong, resilient and permanent structure to ensure that each child is a successful learner who can realise their potential and that adults have the opportunities to fully develop as staff, teachers and leaders?”**



# Current Educational Climate and Challenges

## Looking to 2024: the challenges facing the education sector in the years ahead

- Teaching staff recruitment and retention. ...
- Mental health and wellbeing. ...
- One form entry maintained primary schools are becoming less sustainable due to facing financial challenges around under funding and budget cuts

# Stockport School Strategy 2023-2028

## Stockport School Strategy



### Purpose of the Stockport Schools Strategy

- Stockport Schools Strategy provides an opportunity to define, refine and reorganise our thinking and our approach to ensure that we have a **school system which is fit for purpose**, sustainable, able to respond to the needs of children in our borough and meet the requirements of the **current national policy agenda**.
- It is a shared strategy, with shared borough wide ambitions that can only be delivered through **strong partnerships between schools** and the Local Authority, between the Local Authority and parents, and, critically, strong partnerships between schools.
- The strategy is not an education strategy, but rather focuses on the **structural organisation of the Stockport schools system**. A wider suite of interlinked educational strategies will follow, with a focus on issues including literacy and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

# Stockport School Strategy 2023-2028



## **PRIORITY:**

**We will ensure every Stockport school is able to join a local Multi Academy Trust (MAT)**

This is essential if we are to ensure that our schools remain rooted in our communities. This will enable us to maximise the community leadership provided by Headteachers. This will require the Local Authority to work closely with its school leaders and Department for Education officials to ensure we have a sufficient network of local MATs which are sustainable and successful. This will include working with our existing MATs to support their growth and establishing, in partnership with school leaders, new MAT capacity.



## Stockport Trusts



### Existing academy trusts in Stockport (excluding the church linked trusts)...

- Stockport Academy (Multi Academy Trust)
- Laurus Trust (Multi Academy trust)
- Education Learning Trust (Multi Academy Trust)
- Mellor Primary (Single Academy Trust) - to be The Honeycomb Education Trust
- Hursthead Juniors (Single Academy Trust)

**Trusts in development** *only just given the go ahead by the Advisory Board* - They are in their preliminary moves to convert and then form

- The Helix Trust - Marple Hall and Romiley Primary
- Four Rivers Trust - Norbury Hall, Dial Park, Oak Grove, Lisburne Special School
- Bramhall High is looking to join a MAT.
- Schools across the borough are beginning to talk about joining trusts.

### Important to note

- The future will be that MATs will work together sharing expertise and resources.
- Stockport needs to strengthen its trusts and the Director of Education can make recommendations to the DFE.
- **Bolshaw has strong relationships with the Director of Education, DfE and the CEO of the Honeycomb Education Trust.**



## Bolshaw Context:

**OFSTED:** *Bolshaw Primary School OFSTED report*

October 2022- GRADED **GOOD**

### What is it like to attend Bolshaw Primary School?

- pupils play together harmoniously
- pupils explained that leaders expect them to behave well at all times
- they live out the school's values of honesty, empathy, aspiration, respect and teamwork
- well-thought-out enrichment activities, such as residential trips, help pupils to grow in confidence.
- school's outdoor learning curriculum has a positive impact on developing pupils' resilience and cooperation skills
- high expectations that all staff have of what pupils can achieve
- pupils benefit from a strong sense of community
- every pupil is respected and valued for their individuality



## Bolshaw Context:

### What does our school do well?

- leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum for pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- children in the early years also benefit from a well-designed curriculum
- leaders have thought carefully about the concepts, skills and understanding that they want pupils to learn in each subject
- teachers use checks to identify where pupils may have gaps in their learning
- calm environment in the school
- children in the Reception Year get off to a flying start
- leaders work closely with parents to identify any pupils with SEND
- pupils' wider personal development is a strength
- well-designed opportunities to learn about other cultures and religions help pupils to respect others' differences
- pupils are well prepared for life
- leaders provide staff with training to develop their expertise in how to deliver the curriculum.

### What does our school need to do better?

- *Some staff have not received subject-specific training in some areas of the curriculum. This means that in a small number of subjects, teachers lack some expertise in the delivery of the curriculum. Leaders should ensure that staff have the necessary subject specific knowledge to deliver the full curriculum effectively*



## Why work in partnership with Mellor Primary School within the Honeycomb Education Trust?



- Mellor Primary School as an organisation was the 1st primary school to be an Academy in Stockport (SAT)
- 13 years of working in the academy sector
- First school in Stockport to become a Forest School
- Brought in the No Outsiders programme - inclusivity, diversity, community cohesion
- E Safe Smoothwall - e safety system / internet use
- 1st primary school in the country to be awarded to the Positive Education Award which is internationally recognised for supporting children's mental wellness and impacting on children's outcomes
- Organisation is connected to a range of initially claimed academics in education in particular Mel Ainsco
- Trustees have a range of highly professionally skills including education and financial acumen
- Greater Manchester Learning Partnership - Manchester University
- ISBL Institute of School Business leaders
- Connected with Federation of School Trust
- CEO strong links with NAHT (North West President during Covid)



## Opportunities for children

*Here are a few.....*

- **Enriched curriculum through shared CPD**
- **Enriched EYFS provision and across school**
- **Wider opportunities for enrichment activities**
- **Joint sporting festivals /events**
- **Joint music festivals / choir / theatre events**
- **Arts weeks**
- **Diversity events across school communities**
- **Enrichment events sharing best provision ie creative writing days**
- **Ambassador days**
- **Residential trips**
- **Wider personal development opportunities**
- **Local / national and global project work**
- **Sharing expertise of skilled staff ie spanish teachers / drama / music / art**
- **SEND provision will be strengthened with specialist professionals**



## Opportunities for Staff

*Here are a few.....*

- **Bespoke internal CPD opportunities**
- **Collaboration with highly skilled professionals**
- **Internal promotion first**
- **Teacher networks**
- **Subject networks**
- **Shadow days**
- **Shared Inset**
- **Teacher exchanges and secondments**
- **Strategic levy apprenticeship approach**
- **Support for NPQ suites; NPQH, NPQSL, NPQML**

## Benefits for the School

Here are a few.....



- **School Improvement Advice and Strategy**
- **TRUST School Improvement partners - Previous DOE Greater Manchester Learning Partnership EYFS OFSTED**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY greater scrutiny / more specific**
- **Sharing School Improvement Priorities - strengthening outcomes for all children**
- **Audited every year**
- **Strict controls on financial management executed by the DFE and ESFA (Education Schools Funding Agency)**
- **More effective and allocation of funds - best value**
- **Working with the Local Authority on developing TRUST system through Stockport**
- **Our school aims and values with the HONEYCOMB EDUCATION TRUST align**
- **Maintaining Autonomy of choice**
- **We will still maintain the integrity and independence of our school**
- **Working within the Nolan Principles - 7 Principles of Public Life**  
*Selflessness Integrity Objectivity Accountability Openness Honesty Leadership*
- **Additional funding streams direct from the DFE open to school**
  - **CIF bids (Conditions Improvement Funds)**
  - **Mellor Primary have secured an additional approx £900,000 since they became an academy (awarded Best Building under £1m working with Royal Institute of British Architect)**



# ***Question and Answers***



**A final thought:**

***This is our opportunity to make a difference to  
improve the learning outcomes for our  
current Bolshaw children  
and  
Bolshaw children of the future.***