

## **Salop Teaching School Alliance (the Alliance)**

### **Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU)**

This MOU sets out the basis upon which the Alliance and Shropshire LA, Telford and Wrekin LA, The University of Chester, Shrewsbury Colleges Group, Hadley Learning Community, Church Stretton School, Thomas Adams School, Ercall Wood School, Severn Teaching School Alliance, and North Shropshire Teaching School Alliance (being the current Partners), have agreed to work in collaboration to further the aims and values of the Alliance.

Where the term "Alliance" is used, this is a reference to the teaching school alliance as a whole.

Where the term "Charity" is used, this is a specific reference to Salop Teaching School Alliance (company registration number 9177790).

Where the term "school" is used this is a broad term for schools/colleges and education training providers.

Whilst being a Partner this does not exclude partners from working with other alliances or partnerships.

The aim of the Alliance is for the Charity, the Partners and clients to develop a collaborative approach to school improvement.

This MOU is not a legal undertaking by any Partner although the Partners will strive to do their best to reach the objectives set out below.

### **Purpose and Scope**

The Charity and the Partners have a shared moral purpose to work together to improve the learning and achievement of all the young people at their schools and to support other schools in the region to do the same.

This will be achieved by pursuing excellence in teaching and learning across Shropshire and the Telford and Wrekin by offering training, support, research and development that is "by schools for schools".

The Alliance firmly believes that we are 'stronger together' and that partnership and collaboration between practicing teachers in different schools is the only way to continually develop and improve teaching and learning for the benefit of students, parents and the communities in which we work.

## **Aims and Objectives**

As an Alliance we value:

- The moral purpose of our leaders that drives the partnership to help others and be professionally generous in all aspects of our work as we strive for excellence in relation to all aspects of delivering education and support to young people and adults
- The relationships between partners that are the foundation for the Alliances existence and success
- Equality of opportunity for all young people and the staff who work in our schools
- Fairness towards each other as partners and towards our associates and the individuals we work with
- Transparency and probity, particularly in relation to financial matters working to the principles of best value and sustainability
- The unique nature of each school and its place within its own community
- The needs of other schools and young people beyond our own schools and the Alliance
- Openness and trust that enables and supports effective partnership working
- The contribution that other organisations such as LAs, other education providers, charitable bodies etc. make to the school system and the success and safety of young people
- Effective governance that ensures our values and aims are adhered to and delivered upon.

As an Alliance we aim to:

- Develop an effective and sustainable alliance that helps deliver improved outcomes for young people
- Be part of system wide improvement that creates a better future for all
- Provide outstanding opportunities for staff within and beyond the Alliance to develop their leadership skills, experience and confidence including the delivery of licensed programmes from the National College for Teaching and Leadership (the National College) and now the DfE.
- Provide and broker outstanding training and development opportunities for staff within and beyond the Alliance that support the achievement of excellence in terms of learner outcomes
- Broker the supply of system leaders such as National Leaders in Education (NLEs), Local Leaders in Education (LLEs) and Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs)
- Ensure the supply of outstanding new teachers in to the profession through effective ITE
- Provide school to school support that gives additional capacity to ensure that all schools can be strong and successful schools meeting the needs within their own context

- Work together on succession planning to ensure that schools within and beyond the partnership can continue to be effectively led and managed
- Engage in research and development work that contributes to a more evidence based approach to school improvement.

### **Commencement and Operations**

The Alliance came into existence in September 2012 as a result of The Priory School's successful bid to the then National College of School Leadership. This designated The Priory School as the lead school within its identified alliance of LAs, Further & Higher Education Institutes and schools within Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Its aims and purpose are outlined above and The Priory School will receive funding from the DfE until 2020.

From September 2016 The Priory School took over the operation of the teaching school. This means the teaching school monies are entrusted to The Priory School for spending by the Teaching School Alliance, according to the conditions of the grant that this relates to.

### **Governance Structure and Reporting**

- The identified lead school for the Alliance is The Priory School, Shrewsbury. All Strategic Partners are outlined in the introduction to this MOU.
- The Principal of The Priory School is the overall lead and chair for the Alliance. The Principal delegates specific roles and responsibilities to the Teaching School Director to support the day to day running of the Alliance.
- Meetings are held once a year during the Autumn Term to discuss the Alliance's strategy and foci and the committee's projects and activities. There are three committees or operational groups concentrating on key aspects of the identified 'Big 6' in the National College's designation brief.

### **CPD and R&D (designated lead Partner: Telford & Wrekin LA)**

### **ITT (designated lead Partner: Vacant)**

### **School to School Support (designated lead Strategic Partner: Vacant )**

Each committee operates in accordance with terms of reference made by the Leads of the Salop Teaching School Alliance. Each committee meeting consists of a review of actions and progress to date against the relevant sections of the Alliance's strategy and foci. To ensure collaboration across the Alliance each committee is chaired and led where applicable by a Partner. Minutes record the discussions and decisions agreed by those committee members in attendance. Future agendas revolve around active and outstanding action points.

- The Operational Group Leads will meet twice a year on the progress of each committee in respect of the relevant sections of the Alliance's Actions.

- The Alliance will hold an annual Summer Conference/AGM for Directors, Partners and Clients. The aim of the conference will be to showcase the work of the alliance, share good practice and include a number of guest speakers.

### **Quality Assurance**

Please see separate Alliance QA document which outlines the identified external and internal quality assurance framework which all Partners agree to adhere to.

### **Finance**

The initial funding from the DfE for Year 1 was £60,000, for Year 2 was £50,000, and for Year 3 and 4 was £40,000. The National College have agreed to fund the alliance the sum of £40,000 yearly up to 2020.

The central budget is held by The Priory School and remains accountable to the National College on an annual basis. The alliance can delegate funds to a Partner or Partners for specific projects identified within the Alliance's Actions.

Additional funds can also be bid for on an annual basis. These funds are subject to externally agreed action plans and clear time frames. The responsibility for carrying out these projects can also be delegated to Partners with the alliance overseeing how this money is spent. Partners will not be required to carry out work without receiving appropriate funding.

### **Commitment as a Partner**

By entering into this MOU, your school, organisation or institution have indicated their intention to work collaboratively within the Alliance.

### **Ending the Agreement**

Either party may end the negotiations in relation to any matter referred to within this MOU and the Alliance's Action Plan. Notice must be given in writing to the Charity if a Partner intends to leave the Alliance.

### **Confidentiality**

Each member of the Alliance agrees that it will not use any information received by virtue of its role within the Alliance otherwise than in connection with the Alliance unless agreed by all parties concerned.