



Our Offer to Partner Schools



**St Lawrence
Academies Trust**
Stronger Together

Welcome from the trust

St Lawrence Academies Trust (SLA Trust) is a Diocesan Multi Academy Trust based in the Diocese of Lincoln. In 2021 we received Diocesan Grant Funding from The Department for Education to support the growth of new church multi-academy trusts. The Trust welcomes children and staff from both church schools and non-church schools, across both the primary and secondary age range.



Our vision

We truly believe in the holistic education of children and in improving the range of opportunities available to them. We want to nurture them and allow them to flourish by finding things they enjoy and are good at. We want them to become the leaders of the future. Christian values and the exploration and understanding of the Christian faith underpins our work. This translates into the Trust core values of: **community, integrity, aspiration** and **hope**.

Our mission statement is

“strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow”

The aim of the Trust is to allow schools to become stronger by working together. We are advocates of collaborative working to share expertise, ideas, talents and skills across schools. Schools that join us will become Partner Schools. Where strong leaders and governors join they will help to shape the future of our Trust and school leaders will join our Trust Leadership Team to help strategically plan developments across our Trust.

The personal, professional, moral, cultural and spiritual development of our staff and children is key to the potential success of the Trust, of our partner schools and of the individual people who work and learn in the Trust. Schools joining us help us to become stronger.

Our Trust prides itself on prioritising our children and staff and has the ambition to work towards having 'clean and green' schools where people flourish and are supported by the Wellbeing Charter.

Core central services will free up school leaders to focus on improving outcomes for children.

Please visit our website for a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) around academisation and the benefits of joining a multi-academy trust: www.slatrust.co.uk/join-us/FAQs

COMMUNITY • INTEGRITY • ASPIRATION • HOPE



Our offer to trust partner schools

We celebrate the uniqueness of our partner schools, enabling them to retain their identity and make decisions in the best interests of their pupils and their education.

Most important to us is that school leaders have unrelenting high expectations for their pupils.

We can offer robust bespoke school improvement support to trust partner schools in both the primary and secondary phases through guidance from high quality trust leaders and through our network of school improvement partners.

Ongoing dialogue will ensure regular trust support meetings take place each half term with partner schools. These will identify any new additional support programmes needed and review work already undertaken.

Our offer covers the following areas:

The overall quality of education

- Half termly trust support and development visits from the Trust Support Team (TST) will allow school leaders and the trust to plan and review strategic school improvement. The CEO will arrange regular, pre-planned and proactive support visits.
- Planned conversation around bespoke support packages to complement school improvement plans and address key priorities. Inspection support, readiness and resilience preparation. SEF and ADP support.
- A forward-thinking and strategic staff development policy, personal growth plans and CPD for staff.
- School Leaders steer and shape the Trust as members of the Trust Leadership Team. Planned and strategic collaborative working across partner schools.
- Access to Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership professional development resources and training courses.
- Access and membership to a variety of national professional bodies and support. Eg SSAT, The Key, Diocesan SLA.
- Results, data and gaps analysis to inform planning, interventions and support.
- License for "Evolve", A Trust wide package for planning and managing school trips and visits.

Governance

- Strong governance within the Trust and support for local governing boards, with training and recruitment services for governors.
- Clear "Scheme of Delegation" to allow schools to cherish their unique identity, lead their own curriculum and meet the needs of their own children.



Financial management

- Access online package – a centralised finance structure to enable efficient processes across the Trust.
- Financial expertise and training from qualified members of staff with years of Academy experience.
- Processing of all ESFA returns, VAT returns, BACS payments, month and year end procedures.
- Cloud based paperless finance and budgeting package including training for all relevant staff.
- Assisting with budgeting principles, construction and monitoring.
- Support with purchasing through value for money procurement systems.

Safeguarding

- Single central register support and checks.
- Support for safeguarding record keeping with training and support.
- To offer the CPOMS safeguarding package to partner schools across the Trust.
- Termly safeguarding audit by the Trust Education Support Team and DSL peer to peer support.

Employment and HR

- Payroll provisions for all partner schools.
- HR advice and support, including TUPE process.
- Support service for staff recruitment.
- Contracts and pre-employment checks.
- Access to specialist legal advice.
- SAM online package – Absence management system and occupational health referrals.
- Work with school leaders in partner schools to commit to developing a long term strategy for improving staff wellbeing that aligns to The Education Staff Wellbeing Charter.

Premises management

- Advice and monitoring of ground maintenance, refuse and utility contracts.
- Regular Health & Safety Audit.
- Parago online package – A Trust wide compliance recording software.
- Monitoring of regular testing regimes (PAT testing, legionella, fire detection systems etc.).
- Specialist advice regarding planned and reactive maintenance including strategic refresh planning.

Audit, risk management and internal assurance

- Provision of internal and external audit services (including statutory financial, teacher's pension scheme and internal audits).
- Monitoring and evaluation of risk registers and risk management across the Trust.
- Provision of insurance via RPA scheme.
- Monitoring Business Continuity plans.

IT systems support and data protection

- Ensure all partner school websites are compliant and up to date.
- Ambition for schools to move to Centralised Arbor/ScholarPack MIS support in a timely and strategic manner.
- Trust Data Protection Officer and central GDPR portal including training.
- Advice and support on equipment refresh.
- Advice and support on procurement of new IT equipment.
- Website design and hosting including Google integration (via Realsmart).
- Management & development of IT staff.
- Project Management of major IT projects and migrations.
- IT support helpdesk. Access to a national online training portal.

More information about our trust and about academisation can be found on our website www.slatrust.co.uk



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