



Well what a year (and a bit)! On 1st June 2018, Empowering Minds Academy Trust was a year old. Overall it's been a great year that has seen us grow from an idea and an aspiration into an organisation that is having a positive impact on the children and communities that we are serving. Pupil numbers are up across the Trust, attainment and progress measures are moving in the right directions and we are working together well to utilise our strengths to learn and improve!

As we begin a new school year, we should take time to reflect back on the successes and areas to develop moving forward. We should all be proud of what we have achieved in partnership with Local Governing Bodies and all parents/carers and look to build further on that success.

We are extremely proud of the improvements that the children in our Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) have made in their learning outcomes – the MAT average has increased by 5% at Key Stage 2 (SATs) in reading, writing and reading, writing and mathematics combined. That's a good increase for our first year and shows the strength we gain in working together.

Our work this year has included:

- Teams working across the schools at all levels: children, teachers, teaching assistants, office and finance staff.
- Developing the curriculum over the year and into this next year – enjoyable, local topics that engage and motivate children from the start of the year.
- Further developing our entire assessment system so that we fully understand how to help children to make the best progression.
- Children coming together in sporting activities.
- Making savings on cross Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) purchases and sharing resources.
- Teachers planning art and creative activities together across the schools.
- Finding out where the best practice is in each area across the MAT and sharing our expertise.
- Improving the learning environments in each school, demonstrating very high quality outcomes.
- Planning together to make English and Maths more exciting and challenging.
- Senior leaders meeting frequently to discuss school and MAT successes and areas to improve.

Working together has added so much strength to each school's practice. We all learn so much from each other. The schools still keep their uniqueness but there are many similarities that you would see whichever of our schools you visited.

The board of Trustees oversees the work of the trust, the schools and the local governing bodies. We have such good, professional people who volunteer their time and energy to this work.

Please see our website for much more detail:

www.empoweringmindsmat.uk

Sarah Cairns

MAT CEO