

Wednesday 6th March 2019

RE: Trust-wide Ofsted review

Dear Parent or Carer,

Ofsted has recently introduced new ways to review the effectiveness of multi-academy trusts. The Active Learning Trust was one of the first trusts in the country to be reviewed using this new method.

As Neale-Wade Academy is part of The Active Learning Trust, we wanted to let you know about the findings of the report which has been published today.

I am pleased to inform you that the results of the review were overwhelmingly positive. The Trust was praised for having effectively established a strong and collective ethos, vision and values across all its schools.

I would like to share with you some highlights from the report about our Trust:

Overview

- “You and the directors know each of the schools within the trust exceptionally well. You reflect honestly and have evaluated accurately the strengths and weaknesses in individual performance and context.”
- “The trust’s aims and ethos are clear. They are based on a determination to provide a high-quality education for all.”
- “Consequently, schools that are a part of ALT have a shared understanding and acceptance of this strong ethos. School leaders at all levels are universally proud to be part of ALT and have confidence in the expertise of the directors.”

Trust-wide approach to our schools

- “As a trust, you encourage and celebrate the individual characteristics of each school. You provide them with a good balance of autonomy and central oversight and accountability.”
- “This regional tier [hubs] of leadership is central to the school improvement work of the trust.”

Quality and improvement

- “You have clear and appropriate plans for continuing to improve the quality of education and pupils’ achievement.”
- “You have rigorous monitoring processes in place and ensure that the three schools identified as underperforming over time are suitable challenged and well supported.”

Safeguarding

- “Inspection reports confirm that safeguarding is effective in each of its schools.”

Training and continued professional development

- “Continued professional development is well established, highly valued and is often a reason provided by staff for applying and staying with ALT.”
- “One reason for the strength in leadership and management stems from your commitment to growing and developing your own leaders.

The report also recognised some areas where the Trust could improve. However, the Trust had already identified these issues and begun putting measures in place to address them. For example, the report commended the Trust’s plans for improving middle leadership, reducing pupil absenteeism and developing the curriculum to benefit disadvantaged students and more able students. The inspectors felt that improvements were already being seen as a result.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the school and Trust more widely. The support of our community is vital to ensure our students receive the best education possible.

Yours faithfully,

Clive Bush

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Active Learning Trust