

Joining NEAT

How NEAT works

We believe that NEAT's success as a multi academy trust is because we embrace collaboration, work in partnership, invest in people and aim to build sustainable capacity and capability.

Our common purpose as a trust is to **nurture**, **educate**, **achieve** and **transform** to benefit our children, their families, local communities and our staff.

You can read more about NEAT and the different ways in which we work in partnership in 'All about NEAT' which is published on the NEAT website at:

https://www.neat.org.uk/web/all_about_neat/277041

Our plans for growth

At NEAT we are passionate about system-led improvement and believe that schools can do better for their pupils, families, local communities and staff by working together and supporting each other.

We believe that every school, regardless of their Ofsted rating, has both strengths and areas for development and we believe growth will be for the mutual benefit of everyone within our trust.

At this stage we are seeking schools that share our common purpose and vision for the future and are open to working collaboratively in partnership as one trust.

We would also like to gain sponsorship status with the Department for Education, which would enable schools that require a more structured approach to school improvement to join us and benefit from the experience, support and skills we can offer.

We believe we can support effective growth with schools within one hour's drive of Newcastle.

Our offer

Our offer for schools joining NEAT is:

- within the overarching principle of having high expectations and aspirations for all learners, each school has the freedom to develop its **own ethos and vision** that is appropriate for the community it serves
- each school has the opportunity to respond to the needs of their children and parents and create their own **locally relevant solutions** and draw on evidence-based research
- to have access to **greater opportunities** than those available to a single school
- to provide **transparent and ethical leadership and governance** at all levels in the trust
- to provide **effective central services and common systems** for school improvement, attendance and welfare, and business support.

Two-way process

Every MAT is different in the same way as every school is unique. It is vital in our view that a school looking to join a trust, and a trust considering whether a school should join, ensure that there is a good fit in terms of values, culture and ambition.

Growing incrementally will enable us to ensure a bespoke approach for each school that joins the trust.

Dialogue is key at an early stage and we are open and honest about what will stay the same if a school joins our trust and what will be different. Part of this dialogue will be to share our pre-conditions that we ask all new schools joining the trust to agree to.

If both the trust and the school are keen to explore a partnership, the next steps are:

- that the school's governing body and the trust's board of directors give consent to the school submitting an application to the DfE to join NEAT, in addition to the relevant Diocesan Education Board if it is a Church of England school
- the school will need to undertake a formal consultation with its stakeholders about proposing to join NEAT
- the trust will complete an initial due diligence assessment to understand the benefits and risks of the school joining NEAT.

You can read about our pre-conditions, due diligence and induction processes in our Due Diligence and Induction Procedure which can be downloaded from the NEAT website at:

https://www.neat.org.uk/web/due_diligence_and_induction_procedure/379712

Contact us

The NEAT Central Team is based at the Heaton Centre, Trewitt Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5DY.

If you are a school looking to join a MAT and would like to have a confidential, informal discussion with us please contact:

- Debi Bailey, Chief Executive Officer
- Charles Turvill, Chief Operating and Financial Officer

You can contact us by:

- e-mail at admin@neat.org.uk
- telephone on 0191 2284090 during our core office hours of 8.30am-4.30pm
- sending a message on the Contact page on our website at:
<https://www.neat.org.uk/web/contact/266643>

Debi Bailey, Chief Executive Officer
(November 2018)