



## What it means to be part of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Preston Primary Academy Trust is committed to providing an excellent education for all children. The Trust has a strong focus on developing each school's unique identity and aims to secure the needs of the local community.

### **Our Key Values and Aims are to:**

- Ensure outstanding teaching and a culture of high expectations and high attainment where all individuals reach their full potential and take pride in their achievements.
- Create a safe and stimulating environment, providing lifelong learning experiences which meet individual needs.
- Promote and develop spiritual, moral and cultural growth.
- Provide good examples that children will use as a reference for positive behaviour.
- Encourage all to care for and respect themselves, the local community and others.

### **Schools within our Trust will be recognised for:**

- Their welcoming, positive ethos where all are happy and thrive.
- High academic standards.
- Artistic and sporting achievement and consideration towards others and their needs throughout the world.

### **Our children will:**

- Feel cared for and secure in school.
- Be proud of their school and their personal contributions to its success and the wider community.
- Have good self-esteem and confidence in their individual strengths.
- Be aware of their role in the wider community.

### **Our staff, trustees and governors will:**

- Be recognised for their hard work and commitment to benefit our children.
- Be known for their honesty, integrity, trust and fairness.
- Provide clarity and transparency in all that they are involved in
- Be "rooted" in the needs of the local community.

### **How the schools are funded:**

In the past many schools were under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority (LA). This meant that funds devolved from central Government were given to each local authority to allocate to individual schools. 10% of these funds were held by the LA as "de-delegated" funds to provide services such as School Improvement, Human Resource Management, payroll and contingency funds to support schools in difficulties.

### **How the schools are funded continued**

Over the years the LA services were somewhat eroded when key personnel and positions were lost, therefore schools sometimes felt that they were not being provided with full services.

Educational Trusts have, in some cases, taken on the role of an “umbrella”, providing support and improvement to schools in place of the Local Authority.

Not all trusts operate in the same way.

Preston Primary Academy Trust and Local Governing Bodies (LGB) employ Headteachers to maintain the individual nature of the school, giving autonomy in day-to-day decision making, such as staffing and school organisation.

The Trust will support the Headteacher and Local Governing Body to set a balanced budget.

Each school controls its own budget with the Headteacher and LGB responsible for the day-to-day management of the finances. The Headteacher, alongside the LGB make informed decisions about spending for the benefit of all children.

The Trust ensures that each school’s budget allocation is used only for the intended school and will be used to set a balanced budget to meet the school's priorities.

Each school’s accrued reserves remain within that school for its own use

Preston Primary Academy Trust currently takes a 6% contribution from each school for providing an “umbrella” of focused support and tailored improvements. (Local Authorities take 10% of maintained schools funds.)

**Each school receives:**

- School Improvement Support
- Financial Stability, Expertise and Advice
- Payroll and Pension Management
- An element of Central Procurement and Contract Provision (to achieve economies of scale) to ensure both quality of provision and best value.
- Health and Safety Officer support and guidance.
- Support for CIF (Condition Improvement Funds) bids to enhance school sites.  
(Over the last 4 years we have secured over £2.5 million of capital funding to improve school buildings)
- Day to Day finance support
- Asset Management Planning and futureproofing the estates
- HR, Legal and Accountancy Support

Financial accounts are presented to the LGB and Directors Finance Committee at regular intervals to ensure transparency.

Accounts are audited annually.

Further information about Preston Primary Academy Trust can be found at [www.prestonprimaryacademytrust.co.uk](http://www.prestonprimaryacademytrust.co.uk) or by visiting one of our school websites.