



opportunity for all
trust schools

department for
education and skills



Trust Schools are local authority maintained schools supported by a charitable Trust which provides governors to support their strategic leadership. Acquiring a Trust will be a way for schools to raise standards through strengthening collaboration and drawing on the expertise and energy of their partners.

There is no single blueprint – schools can choose who they work with and how, in order to support the needs and aspirations of their pupils and local communities. For example, some pathfinder schools want to use a Trust to strengthen their relationships with existing partners, while others may focus on increasing opportunities and aspirations for 14-19 year olds in an area, or work with partners and schools across the country to develop their particular specialism.

What Trust Schools offer

We know that schools do best when they work in collaboration with other schools, external partners or the local community. Trusts build on and embed the proven experience of Specialist Schools' and Academies' interaction with their external partners, as well as that of Voluntary Aided and Controlled schools which benefit hugely from the involvement of their foundations and the governors appointed by their foundations. Acquiring a Trust creates a long term, sustainable relationship that withstands changes in leadership and therefore maximises the investment schools make in collaboration.

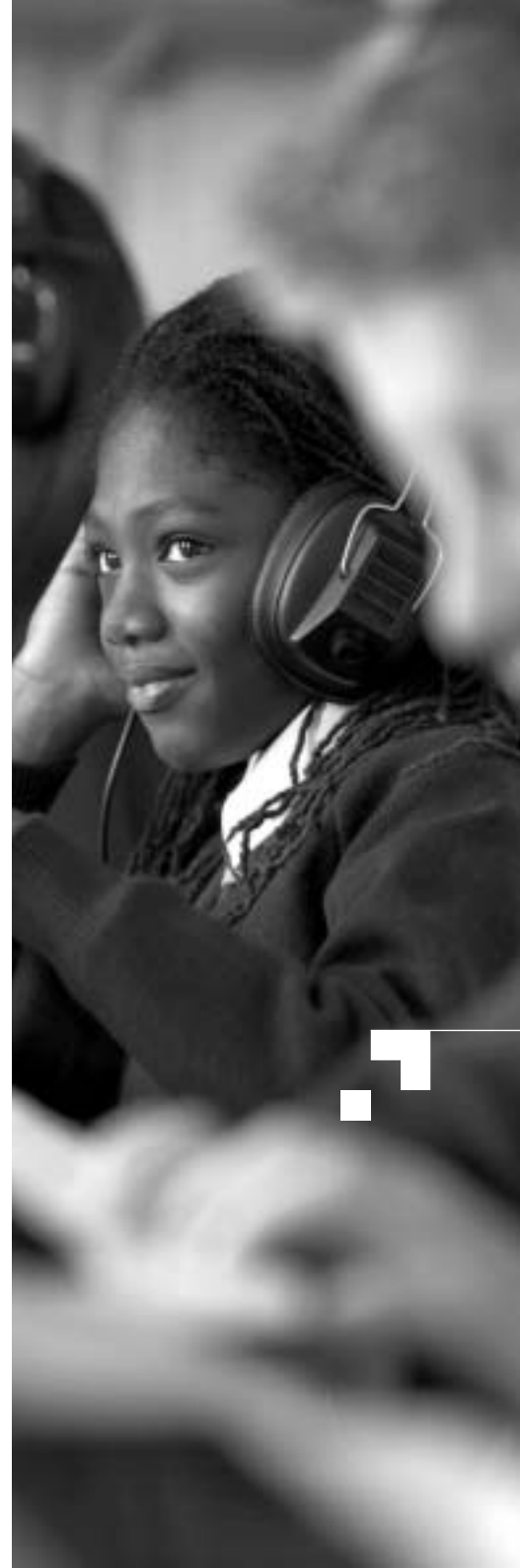
Trusts will encourage flexibility and innovation and will help create an environment in which all pupils have access to a wider range of opportunities and the highest standards.

Why get involved?

Many businesses welcome the opportunity to engage in their local community, sharing expertise and skills with local schools and engaging with young people who will be the employees of the future. Forming a Trust gives a more stable and sustainable structure to relationships with a school or group of schools.

Appointing governors to support the strategic leadership of a school is a way to move beyond ad hoc projects and help to build a culture of creativity, innovation and expertise in our schools. There is no requirement or expectation that Trusts will make any financial contribution to the school(s) they support.

Businesses also see advantages for the development of their own staff. Involvement in programmes such as Academies and Specialist Schools has proved popular with many employees, and businesses are seeing improvements in staff morale and retention as a result.



What's next

The flexibility and range of options possible for Trusts is what gives them such enormous potential for all schools. Proposed legislation will put in place a formal process for schools to acquire Trusts so that sufficient safeguards are in place.

In the meantime, we are working with potential Trusts and interested schools to develop a range of pathfinder projects which will explore and resolve any practical issues around setting up Trust Schools. A number of businesses have already expressed an interest in working with schools and other organisations on the pathfinders and some case studies are highlighted in the 'What Trust Schools Offer' booklet available at www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/schoolswhitepaper/

The DfES would be pleased to hear from businesses interested in pursuing further the opportunities presented by Trust Schools. You may already have an idea about which school(s) you want to work with and in what way or you may want advice on exploring the concept further. Either way, if you would like to find out how your business could get involved please contact us at business.relations@dfes.gsi.gov.uk



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