

The Oak Partnership

"In times of change learners inherit the earth while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to work in a world that no longer exists" Eric Hoffer (1902 – 1983)

The Oak Partnership Vision

Inspiring children to be life long learners, our schools create a rich and varied curriculum that excites and inspires.

Working together we develop great teaching and create inspiring learning environments.

Leaders support, challenge and hold each other to account.

Promoting personal development, welfare and character in our schools to ensure individual achievement and success.

Making the most of partnerships, we collaborate both within The Oak Partnership and beyond.

The Oak Partnership is underpinned by the following Values

Community

Trust

Responsibility

Respect

Compassion

As a Multi Academy Trust we have agreed a set of values which underpin how we will live our life together as a community of schools. Each school has well established values that they promote within their own school community, to set the ethos and tone, which has served them well and The Oak Partnership support these. Our wish is that our values will evolve and develop into a defined model as we grow.

"A rising tide lifts all boats"

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Background

The Headteachers of Blackbrook, Ruishton, Selworthy and West Monkton Schools, in consultation with their Governing Bodies, held a joint meeting on the 6th May 2015 to explore the options of working more closely together. They unanimously agreed to formally explore the opportunity of creating a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). A Shadow Board was established with agreed terms of reference with membership made up of the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the four founder schools. In March 2018 the Headteacher Board and the Regional Schools Commissioner awarded the four schools Academy Orders enabling them to move forward to form The Oak Partnership. The four schools are now consulting on this Academy conversion with a view to converting in January and forming a new Multi Academy Trust in the Taunton area.

Our Founder Schools and Local Context

All our schools are located in North Taunton, Somerset. All four schools are good, having all been inspected within the last twelve months, over-subscribed or are experiencing planned growth.

Planned expansion, supported by the local authority, will see a second site for Selworthy, giving much needed additional High Needs places. With a special school, three primary schools of different sizes and successful nursery and pre school provision, The Oak Partnership demonstrates richness and diversity.

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Governance and Leadership of The Oak Partnership

Members	<i>Guardians of the constitution; four Members, including one appointed by the Diocese, with power to appoint or remove directors.</i>
Directors	<i>Twelve Directors, accountable to the Members, Secretary of State, Diocese, parents, pupils and wider community; balance of skills, including financial, legal and HR as well as a passion for education.</i>
Local Governing Committee	<i>Clear delegated responsibility and decision making ability; allowing each school to retain individuality within the partnership.</i>
Executive Team	<i>Appointed by and accountable to the Directors; providing leadership and direction, ensuring viability and accountability, overseeing improvement and growth; building networks beyond The Oak Partnership.</i>
Strategic Leadership Team	<i>Consisting of the Heads of the Academy Schools and the Executive Headteacher; providing the collaborative strategic direction for the Multi Academy Trust's development.</i>
Network Groups	<i>Consisting of subject leaders from all Academy Schools; ensuring that Multi Academy Trust developments are driven from the ground up.</i>

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The Oak Partnership aims to inspire children in all its schools to be life longer learners. All that follows is underpinned by the expectation that all our schools create a rich and varied curriculum that excites and inspires, giving children a love of learning new things.

Support, Challenge and Hold to Account

We expect The Oak Partnership to provide the support to our school leaders and challenge them to consistently reach the highest standards. Ensuring that all children make good progress regardless of their starting point.

We will know all of our schools well so that school leaders can be accountable for how children progress from the start within their school.

Make the Most of Partnerships

Within The Oak Partnership we look for all learners to make an active contribution to the community.

The Oak Partnership will embrace and influence current and innovative education thinking, locally, regionally and nationally.

We will seek partnerships with parents, agencies and local providers with the express aim of ensuring the best learning opportunities for our children.

We see the partnerships that we develop within The Oak Partnership as central; of equal importance will be developing partnerships with other schools and Trusts that are not within The Oak Partnership.

Those partners extend to our local preschool settings; extra-curricular external providers; Taachi Morris Arts Centre; Taunton Teaching Alliance; other local Teaching Alliances; Colleges and Further Education providers; and for our Church schools the local Christian communities.

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High Attainment and Progress

We expect The Oak Partnership to work with the schools to develop clear and consistent ways of collect information so that we can evaluate how well schools are doing.

We will support schools in developing a holistic curriculum that meets the needs of their community.

We will use the information to challenge each other. Through a combination of collaboration and competition we look to continual improve the outcomes for children within all our schools.

By sharing expertise and resources across our schools we will reduce barriers to learning. Developing a Partnership approach to Early Identification of Needs and Effective Intervention to Narrow the Gap for our most vulnerable or disadvantaged learners.

We will be innovative in developing ways of assessing the progress and attainment of children, developing a shared understanding of Assessment for Learning and Assessment of Learning.

Promoting Personal Development , Welfare and Character

In this tumultuous world, our schools must be calm and pleasant places in which children not only feel safe but also feel that they belong and are able to thrive and grow. The Oak Partnership will support leaders to create and maintain this calm and purposeful environment.

We recognise that there are children within our communities who need support with managing their behaviours, this can be for all sorts of different reasons. As a collaboration, we will be able to better meet the needs of those individuals whilst minimising the impact they may have on others.

Over time The Oak Partnership would look to develop an approach to supporting the most vulnerable children in our communities, so that we will have expertise that is not only able to support within our Partnership but outreach beyond.

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Great Teaching

We recognise that in order to achieve high attainment and progress, leaders in school need to ensure the best quality teaching and learning is taking place.

We will use collaboration across our schools to drive up standards and improve outcomes.

Through the development of network groups of strong leaders, we will identify the priorities within each school and across The Oak Partnership and work together to improve and innovate; ensuring all our schools have highly effective staff teams.

We have strong teaching and support teams across all our schools and believe that The Oak Partnership will be an appealing place for teachers to want to work. Therefore, we will continue to make the best appointments, only recruiting staff that can add value to our already existing strong teams.

We look to develop existing strong links with local Apprenticeship providers and Initial Teacher Training providers, so that we can enable young people to start their careers in education and we can ensure the continuous influx of outstanding young teachers.

Through our collaboration we will ensure that all of our schools are financially viable and sustainable. This means we will be able to invest well, ensuring that all our schools are well resourced, so that our outstanding teachers are enabled to deliver the rich and varied curriculum.

Inspiring Learning Environments

With greater financial control and greater opportunity to increase revenue we will be able to prioritise our school environments so that we maintain the inside and outside of our buildings to the highest standard, so they are places that children are inspired to come too.

As an Academy we have access to bid for grants and so can prioritise bigger building projects that will enhance our school environments.

There will be opportunities to share best practice and expertise, such as Forest Schools, Orienteering and other opportunities for outdoor learning.

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We would look to support schools in developing curriculum opportunities within their school environment and utilising each individual school environment for the benefit of all the children within The Oak Partnership.

Working Together to Achieve Better Outcomes for All

In a fractured education system our schools are looking to come together so that collectively we can achieve more. As a beacon of excellence we hope that others will be compelled to join us.

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