



Introducing

EDAT

Chester Diocesan Academies Trust

CDAT's Vision

Rooted in Christian values, CDAT
is committed to:

- Valuing the uniqueness of every child
- **Aspiring** to excellence
- Being a **nurturing** learning community for all

Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

As a Trust, our aim is to ensure that all of our pupils are able to benefit from and enjoy 'life in all its fullness.'

Message from our CEO

CDAT was formed in 2014 by the Chester Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), and has worked in close partnership with the DBE since its inception. As the trust for the Diocese, CDAT has a clear, Christian ethos – as can be seen from our trust vision. As of summer 2020, CDAT is a family of eight primary schools and is looking forward to welcoming two more schools into the trust in the autumn term.

I joined CDAT as CEO in May 2019, having spent the previous three years working for Ofsted as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI).

Prior to that, I was headteacher of a Church of England primary school in Liverpool diocese. That school moved from having a 'notice to improve' (2003) to Ofsted 'outstanding' (2008) and was one of the first cohort of Teaching Schools nationally. School improvement is my great passion and I count myself as very fortunate to have the role of CDAT's CEO and head of the CDAT family!



Neil Dixon

Central Team



Sue Riley
School Effectiveness
Officer



Maxine Green
Finance Manager



Hélène Parker-Clark
Operations Manager



Melissa Aspinall
Business Support
Officer

Securing a high standard of education for the children in all our schools is the heart of CDAT's work. We know, though, that a lot goes on in the background to make sure that our teaching staff are able to deliver a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum. This is where CDAT's Central Team come in. They support all of the back-office functions of our schools, including:

- Unlimited finance & audit support
- Budget monitoring & training
- Health & Safety compliance
- Website compliance
- Thorough GDPR support & training
- High quality core policies
- Comprehensive online training platform SmartLog™
- Academy conversion project management (AMF Projects)
- CFO managed tendering, procurement & Trust level contracts
- Marketing & branding support
- HR, payroll & pensions
- Share best practice between schools
- Legal support by education specialists Stone King

All these services allow our schools to focus on the most important aspect – continually **improving the quality of teaching** ensuring every child has the best possible start in education.

School Improvement

We believe that the quality of our school improvement work is a key benefit of CDAT membership. Because we are a relatively small group of schools, our school support can be very carefully matched to each individual school's needs – and both Neil (CEO) and Sue (School Effectiveness Officer) have a wealth of school leadership experience. Our schools work really well together and regularly share best practice. We also ensure that all of our staff have access to high quality training. This is a typical example of how working with CDAT has helped one of our schools:

Working alongside the Headteacher and the Subject Leader, CDAT's School Effectiveness Officer was able to monitor and evaluate what needed to be done to raise reading standards.

The school staff have focused on the teaching of phonics, raising their **phonics screening score from 67% to 100%**. A new reading spine has been introduced enabling pupils to develop a love of stories, poetry, and literature through being read to daily from a range of gripping texts. This sits happily alongside the school's existing reading programme which contains texts that are matched to pupils' reading ability as well as a range of inviting stories and non-fiction to enjoy in each class library.

The school is now ready to apply for the **Liverpool Reading Quality Mark** which they hope to secure post lockdown. Thanks to staff training in phonics teaching, guided reading and the fundamental skill of teaching reading, Astbury pupils are successfully learning to read and reading to learn!



'Reading has been reinvigorated at Astbury St Mary's'



New Pre-School



Astbury St Mary's, with around 60 pupils, is CDAT's smallest school. One of the challenges that the school found was that, without its own Nursery, the school was missing out on pupil numbers.

Following a parental survey it was clear that there was demand for nursery provision at the school. CDAT worked alongside the local governing body to ensure that they felt informed and able to establish the right provision for Astbury children.

Astbury's headteacher and staff were able to **draw on the experience of another CDAT school**, Wybunbury Delves, who had already set up their own pre-school provision.



CDAT was able to **access grant funding** to help pay for the refurbishment of the school's early years outdoor provision.

Acorns opened for morning only sessions in January but already the demand for places is such that they hope to offer full time provision from September 2020.

Find Astbury Acorns on Facebook and discover their latest adventures!





Ofsted Inspection 2020

St Paul's, Stalybridge, was the first of our schools to undergo an Ofsted inspection under the new framework in January 2020. In preparation the central team had been working closely with the school throughout the build up, particularly supporting the development of their new curriculum and driving the standards of reading.

Both the Chief Executive Officer and the School Effectiveness Officer were on site to support the school during the inspection preparation, process and feedback sessions.



The school's Christian values are the heart of the school's work. Pupils behave well, feel valued and are happy at the school. They want to learn and work well together to help and support each other. Leaders and teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve.

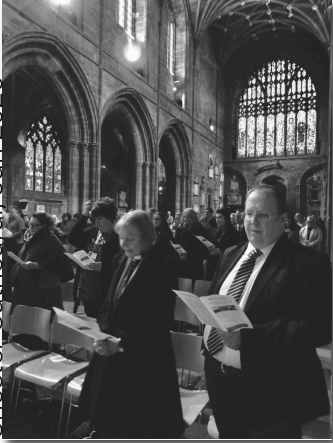


The school works effectively with the CDAT. Staff are appreciative of the support provided to help them develop their expertise as subject leaders. Staff told us they work as a team and feel valued by the leadership team. The impact of training and support shines through this inspection report. The cohesive team of families, staff and leadership are definitely driving standards up.



Commissioning Service

Chester Cathedral, Jan 2020



Each school's HT lit a candle



CDAT covers, in many ways, a diverse collection of schools. Our largest school has close to 400 pupils, our smallest around 60. There are urban and rural schools in the CDAT family, stretching from the edge of the Pennines to the Cheshire plain and the Wirral peninsular. This diversity is one of CDAT's great strengths – we know that 'one size doesn't fit all' and don't try to make our schools into carbon-copies of each other. Each one is unique!

However, one thing that is common across all our schools is that they are all Church of England schools within Chester Diocese. Our Christian ethos is a thread that runs throughout all of our schools. This was celebrated earlier this year, when staff and governors from all of the CDAT schools came together in Chester Cathedral for a Commissioning Service. This was a wonderful opportunity to come together and re-dedicate ourselves to our shared goal – to provide the pupils across all of our schools with the best-possible education in a caring, Christian environment.

As the candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the World, the crosses remind us of the sacrifice that he made so that we 'may have eternal life' (John 3:16)



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