



Northern  
Lights

LEARNING TRUST

# AN INTRODUCTION TO Northern Lights



Northern  
Lights

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Department  
for Education



Northern  
Lights

EARLY YEARS HUB NORTH EAST



Northern  
Lights

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



see your true COLOURS shining through



Background Middle End Acoustic Bass Amp



## Northern Lights Learning Trust

is a Multi-Academy Trust currently comprising seven primary and secondary schools and over 3,000 children from Stockton and Hartlepool in Teesside through to Sunderland and Washington.

We work together to ensure that young people and adults are given the opportunities and support to flourish. We celebrate the diversity that exists within our Trust and value that each of our individual school families are as unique as the communities they serve.

Our inclusive Trust includes a mixture of Church and non-Church, small, village, rural, urban and large schools - a range of communities and a wealth of expertise.

## Why be part of Northern Lights?

We know our schools are stronger together:

- Improved outcomes for pupils
- Financial benefits - reducing outgoings and shared purchasing power
- Collaborative working
- Executive and Central Team expertise
- Opportunities to save money through shared services
- Autonomy to retain the distinctiveness of your school
- Retain Local Governing Body
- Clear scheme of delegation
- Expertise of school improvement and teacher development team: trained Ofsted inspectors, trained SIAMS inspector (Church schools), NLE, SLEs, school and Trust support, subject expertise
- Opportunity to be an integral part of the DfE 'golden thread' of teacher development

### OUR SCHOOLS



**Benedict Biscop CE Academy**  
Sunderland



**Hart Primary School**  
Hartlepool



**Holley Park Academy**  
Washington, Sunderland



**Ian Ramsey CE Academy**  
Stockton-on-Tees



**St. Helen's Primary School**  
Hartlepool



**St. Peter's Elwick CE Primary School**  
Hartlepool



**Venerable Bede CE Academy**  
Sunderland

**Grange Primary School in Hartlepool and St Aidan's CE Academy, a secondary in Darlington, are expected to join Northern Lights in the academic year 2023-24.**



We are one of only 87 teaching school hubs and provide Initial Teacher Training.



We have been selected by the DfE to share good practice and offer professional development to early years practitioners.









# Northern Lights



- Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy, Sunderland
- Holley Park Academy, Washington
- Venerable Bede Church of England Academy, Sunderland
- Hart Community Primary School, Hartlepool
- St Helen's Primary School, Hartlepool
- St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School, Hartlepool
- Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy, Stockton-on-Tees

*Expected to join in the academic year 2023-24 are Grange Primary School in Hartlepool and St Aidan's CE Academy in Darlington.*

**OUR SCHOOLS: SEPTEMBER 2023**

## The benefits of belonging

We work in collaboration. As a maintained school, the Local Authority retains funding that then provides services. A Multi-Academy Trust retains funding in the same way, but this provides specific bespoke services and the amount is reviewed annually.

**Our current centrally provided services include:**

### EDUCATIONAL

- Access to the development opportunities provided by our Teaching School Hub
- ITT provider of teacher training in partnership with Durham SCITT
- CPD program quality

assured in line with Teaching School Hub, National Support School and Science Hub in the Trust

- Opportunity to work in partnership across the Trust with NLE, SLEs, practising Ofsted and SIAMS inspectors and wide range of expertise
- Curriculum Leader Networks
- A range of other Networks across the Trust including SEND and Administrators
- Moderation across the Trust
- Trust CPD and annual conference
- Regular Executive Leadership Meetings
- Half termly Strategic

- School Improvement Group Meetings
- Headteacher and SLT Peer review programme.

### GOVERNANCE

- Termly Governance briefings
- Access to Governance Training.

### HR/FINANCE/ESTATES

- Health, Safety and Environmental Service
- Estates support, including CIF bids
- Finance
- HR
- GDPR
- Legal support
- Data protection
- Policies
- Compliance
- Safeguarding.

### OTHER

- Opportunities to develop pupil links, including School Council shared projects
- Bespoke support brokered whenever needed
- Support from a skilled Board of Directors
- Trust policies written centrally and school specific policies provided with principles/template to relieve workload.
- Paperwork streamlined in partnership with schools and produced centrally to relieve workload
- Safeguarding supervision peer system in development
- Compliance checks to reassure – SCR/website.



## The power of purpose: Why we do what we do

For many people at Northern Lights there are heart-felt, personal reasons to want to give the next generation the best start possible.

What matters the most on an individual level is a major motivator to achieve success in education. Coupled with a strong sense of belonging, this creates teams - and schools - that can genuinely make a difference.

This sums up the approach Northern Lights takes as a trust, as a teaching school

hub and as an early years stronger practice hub for the North East.

This way of thinking also extends into our work with initial teaching training and means that by attracting like-minded schools, together we can raise standards and bring about positive change.

Our vision is to provide excellent holistic education for children and young people, alongside high quality staff development, to ensure everyone can be their authentic best self.



## Our values run through all of our decisions and key actions

Our key value is recognising and listening to the **voice of the child**. It really is at the heart of everything we do.

Schools are embedded in their communities and sense of **community** is a responsibility as well as a value, embracing belonging, kindness, compassion, respect and the opportunities it brings.

**Support** is the rock upon which we choose to lean or the foundation of help we can give to others.

**Integrity** means doing what we say we will do, retaining authenticity and humility.

We always do the best we can to instil **pride** and we are proud of what we achieve and the difference we make.

**VOICE OF THE CHILD**

**COMMUNITY**

**PRIDE**

**SUPPORT**

**INTEGRITY**

**OUR VALUES**

Northern Lights

You are a part of Northern Lights. We have high expectations here. We believe you can reach them and we will support you every step of the way.

– The Northern Lights way – what we say to our people



## Central Team Leadership: Who's who

Chief Executive Officer:  
**Jo Heaton OBE**

Chief Operating Officer:  
**Lisa Cockburn**

Chief Finance Officer:  
**Hayley Swinhoe**

Director of Primary  
Education: **Katy Hill**

Director of Secondary  
Education: **Jon Tait**

Director of Quality  
Assurance & School  
Improvement:  
**Michael Wardle**

Director of People &  
Resource Management:  
**Leanne Kirk**

Trust Safeguarding,  
Attendance & Inclusion  
Lead: **Carole Bradley**

Director of Estates:  
**Martin Green**

Director of  
Communications: **Tim Moat**

Director of Teaching School  
Hub: **Zoe Thompson**

Deputy Director of Teaching  
School Hub: **Sarah Hardy**

Director of Early Years  
Stronger Practice Hub:  
**Emma Whelam-Tate**

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Call Northern Lights on  
0191 5947033

Email: [info@nllt.co.uk](mailto:info@nllt.co.uk)

Our address: Northern  
Lights Learning Trust,  
Marcross Drive,  
Sunderland SR3 2RE

Website: [www.northernlightslearningtrust.co.uk](http://www.northernlightslearningtrust.co.uk)



Every school has its own values and its own vision and that's really important to us because all of our schools are there to serve our community but equally, our trust is there to serve each other.

We do that with humility and with an openness because at Northern Lights it's not all about the academic - that is really important to us - but we know, as a trust, we are successful if we have ensured that in an holistic way our children and young people have had every opportunity to experience, to flourish, to thrive, to understand the wonder and the joy of the world around them.

- Jo Heaton OBE, Chief Executive, Northern Lights Learning Trust