



Northern
Lights
LEARNING TRUST

AN INTRODUCTION TO

Northern Lights



Northern
Lights
LEARNING TRUST



Northern
Lights
TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Department
for Education



Northern
Lights
EARLY YEARS HUB NORTH EAST



Northern
Lights
INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



Northern Lights Learning Trust

is a Multi-Academy Trust currently comprising ten primary and secondary schools and over 4,200 children in an area stretching from Wearside through the Tees Valley.

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
- A registered sponsor Trust – approved by the DfE to support schools joining our Trust
- Development and support for Governors.

If you are considering joining our Trust, now is a key time in its growth - we are evolving and developing as we increase in size and scope. Your voice will be heard.

OUR SCHOOLS



Benedict Biscop CE Academy
Sunderland



Dame Dorothy Primary School
Sunderland



Grange Primary School
Hartlepool



Hart Primary School
Hartlepool



Holley Park Academy
Washington, Sunderland



Ian Ramsey CE Academy
Stockton-on-Tees



St. Aidan's CE Academy
Darlington



St. Helen's Primary School
Hartlepool



St. Peter's Elwick CE Primary School,
Hartlepool



Venerable Bede CE Academy
Sunderland



Northern Lights

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

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



Northern Lights

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

We have been selected by the DfE to share professional development to early years practitioners.



Northern Lights

EARLY YEARS HUB NORTH EAST

see your true colours shining through





Northern Lights



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

OUR SCHOOLS: FEBRUARY 2025

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 and Early Years 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.

A graphic featuring a stylized Northern Lights aurora in shades of green and blue. In the center, there is a circular emblem with five segments radiating from a central point. The segments are labeled: 'VOICE OF THE CHILD' (top), 'SUPPORT' (top-right), 'INTEGRITY' (bottom-right), 'PRIDE' (bottom-left), and 'COMMUNITY' (top-left). The central point of the emblem is labeled 'OUR VALUES'. To the right of the emblem, the words 'Northern Lights' are written vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the emblem, there is a large block of white text. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a small line of text.

VOICE OF THE CHILD

SUPPORT

INTEGRITY

PRIDE

COMMUNITY

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

Executive Director of
Education:

Katy Hill

Executive Director of
Standards:

Michael Wardle

Executive Director of
Leadership and Inclusion:

Carole Bradley

Director of Early Years:

Emma Whelam-Tate

Director of People and
Resource Management:

Leanne Kirk

Director of Estates:

Martin Green

Director of Governance:

Samina Javed-Sarwar

Director of
Communications: **Tim Moat**

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

Senior Leader for Teaching
and Learning/SEND:

Zoe Thompson

Senior Leader for
Leadership and Inclusion:

Leanne Yates

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Website: [www.
northernlights.education](http://www.northernlights.education)



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