

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ASPIRER TEACHING SCHOOL CORE ALLIANCE PARTNERS

The aim of this agreement is to provide all partners of this alliance with an understanding of the work of the Teaching School and what it means to be a partner in the Alliance. It is anticipated that this agreement will develop over time as the Teaching School Alliance evolves.

AIMS OF THE TEACHING SCHOOL:

The Aspirer Teaching School aims to work inclusively and collaboratively, to secure the best quality of teaching and learning for pupils in the local area through a sustainable model of developing teachers and leaders.

OBJECTIVES:

To recruit and retain outstanding new entrants to the teaching profession, providing them with the highest quality training.

The Aspirer Teaching School began offering the School Direct Programme in September 2015 and works in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University as the accrediting provider. We have trained a total of 28 Associate Teachers on the programme and intend to train a maximum of 20 more in 2017/2018. We propose to increase our numbers over time in line with government strategy. The Alliance SLT have formed an ITT operational group and collaboratively designed and are involved in the delivery of the programme. The ITT operational group meets six times each year.

To identify and co-ordinate expertise from across the alliance, using exemplary teachers and leaders to provide high quality training and leadership development for staff across the local area, in order to support the achievement of excellent learner outcomes.

The development of our 10 stage Teaching Career Professional Development Programme, and additional CPD packages which meet local need, have been a focus of the Alliance Executive Board who meet termly. A series of CPD packages and events run throughout the year and Alliance Partners are involved in the facilitation of those. We are an affiliate hub with OLP (the Outstanding Leadership Partner) and facilitate the NPQML and NPQSL programmes in partnership with them. We are an accredited body for NQTs, and run an NQT and RQT programme to build on our Initial Teacher Training offer.

To recruit, develop and deploy SLEs across a wide spectrum of subjects, phases and areas of expertise.

We encourage skilled middle leaders from our alliance schools, to seek designation as Specialist Leaders of Education and to improve their own leadership development beyond their own schools, as well as supporting the Teaching School in School to School support work. Headteachers will need to support SLEs by agreeing to release them to undertake commissions.

To develop capacity and be able to provide high quality support for other schools

Integral to the concept of Teaching Schools is the belief in system reform and improvement through mutual support and collaboration between practitioners. The Aspirer Teaching School aims to provide a central point of contact for support as may be required by local schools in order to ensure that the overall

effectiveness of their organisation is good or better. This may range from the identification of CPD needs to targeted SLE or consultant deployment.

To engage in action research and development that informs and improves pedagogy and professional development across all phases.

The Aspirer Teaching School is keen to promote practitioner based research and regularly makes applications to be involved in National College and EEF research projects. These projects involve and are often led by some of our core alliance and partner schools with funding provided by the National College or EEF to create capacity for this work to be carried out, disseminated and the impact evaluated.

To ensure that our most talented people are given leadership opportunities which will strengthen schools and create future capacity.

Talent management and succession planning are a key priority of the Teaching School and we aim to develop and retain high quality leaders in our local schools. To this end we offer a range of leadership programmes from the RQT programme, which focuses upon subject leadership, through to NPQML, Middle to Senior Leadership, NPQSL, and hope that core alliance schools will support us in the development of future leaders by identifying potential leaders and encouraging them to participate in our programmes.

STRUCTURE:

The lead school for the Aspirer Teaching School is Ash Grove Academy, part of the Aspire Multi-Academy Trust. The CEO of the Aspire MAT together with the Director of the Teaching School are responsible for the strategic outcomes of the Core Alliance Partnership, setting appropriate targets, formulating an action plan and evaluating Teaching School activities against national key performance indicators. They are supported by the Alliance Executive Board (Core Alliance Members) and the Alliance Governance Board, as well as Strategic Delivery Partner schools.

CORE ALLIANCE PARTNER

Core Alliance Partners, whether schools or universities, are expected to have the competence, capacity and willingness to make a **major contribution** to the work of the Teaching School, working proactively to facilitate, support and evaluate the work of the alliance as well as helping to shape the future development of the Teaching School. It is expected that Core Alliance Partners will agree a level of responsibility for the strategic work of the Teaching School, attend termly board meetings and promote the Teaching School in the wider community.

The Benefits/Core Entitlement:

- A natural and first point of call for support and advice.
- School to school support peer review annually.
- High quality trainee teachers, selected by the Aspirer Teaching School. As an Alliance member you will have the opportunity to be involved in the recruitment and selection of trainees as well as the design and delivery of the School Direct programme.
- Opportunities for staff to actively contribute to system leadership as Specialist Leaders of Education.
- Registration of NQTs with our Appropriate Body for half price.
- CPD/Support Package each academic year:

- half-day/staff meeting of school support from a consultant/SLE
- engagement in at least two free research projects;
- two half price places on the Aspirer NQT programme and RQT programme;
- reduced price places for the NPQML and NPQSL programmes when we can offer a full cohort.

The Commitment:

- A shared moral purpose and vision for the alliance.
- A commitment to share in school expertise and engage in delivery of all key school based activities delivered through the alliance: ITT, S2SS, CPD (the school will be reimbursed for costs incurred).
- A willingness to share information about your school on a termly basis: progress and attainment data and self-evaluation.
- A commitment to engage in the CPD offer above.
- Attendance at termly Executive Board meetings.
- A commitment to nominate a named governor from the school to be on the Alliance Governance Board (attendance at an annual meeting).

_____ will commit to being a core alliance member for 2017-18.

Signed _____ (Headteacher)

Signed _____ (Director of TSA)