



EPWORTH  
EDUCATION TRUST

DO ALL YOU CAN







# WELCOME FROM THE CEO

The Epworth Education Trust was created in November 2020 when two smaller academy trusts - Wesley Trust, consisting of three schools, and Acorn Trust, consisting of two schools, merged to create the foundations for a Multi-Academy Trust where schools work collaboratively to be the very best that they can be.

We passionately believe, however, that does not mean every school needs to be the same. Our schools are reflections of their communities, and that is an important connection that should not be challenged or lost.

We share, however, a belief that as a group of schools we can, and will, achieve more by working collaboratively. United by a shared Methodist ethos and common purpose, together we maximise our resources, echo best practice and reduce workload.

We are also an inclusive trust that welcomes a wide range of

schools including Methodist and community schools, primary, secondary and special schools that are both convertor and sponsored academies.

While individually we can achieve a great deal, we believe that being part of a family of schools will enable us to “do all we can”.

If you would like to find out more about the Epworth Education Trust, please do get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Julie-Ann Hewitt  
CEO

# OUR AMBITIONS

The Epworth Education Trust is rooted in our communities, our profession and our faith. We work together to ensure that every child and young person can achieve excellence.

**To do this, our aims are:**

- ✿ To have a Trust that grows and develops whilst ensuring it remains healthy, sustainable and high performing. That it becomes a Trust of excellence. We want to build self-sustaining and effective schools rooted in their communities but also networked with a wider group of strong schools.
- ✿ To provide high quality leadership and teaching which will enthuse and inspire all learners, and enable the wider learning community to become an outstanding beacon for inclusion, providing personalised learning opportunities for all learners to succeed in order to become the very best they can be.
- ✿ For the Trust to play a pivotal role in transforming and enhancing the life experiences of the wider communities they will serve. Our schools will be at the heart of compassionate and caring communities that are underpinned by strong values.
- ✿ To be an outward facing organisation that continues to learn and develop whilst offering to others the ability to grow and develop through sharing of good practice.
- ✿ That each School will reflect the Epworth Education Trust's strong commitment to improving the life chances of all children. We believe that where the Trust has the capacity to make a difference, it is morally bound to do so. That the children will be at the heart of everything. All decisions will be determined by what is in their best interests
- ✿ Every school will be able to deliver a unique curriculum that is right for their children, but is rooted in best practice from across the Trust.
- ✿ That through the excellent teaching of a rich, extended and balanced curriculum, which ignites curiosity, unlocks talent and realises potential. We will develop creative, passionate and respectful learners who make excellent progress and are supported by well-motivated and passionate teachers.

## OUR FOUNDATIONS AND OUR FUTURE

While the Trust has only just merged, the founder schools and their individual Trusts have a strong track record of success. Bringing the best practice together has already further strengthened the support we offer our schools.

We are also an inclusive trust that welcomes a wide range of schools including Methodist and community schools, primary, secondary and special schools that are both convertor and sponsored academies.

Given our belief that we should support all children in all schools, we will also be working with schools that are seen to be strong in the eyes of Ofsted, but also those facing challenges.

Our hope is that, over time, all Methodist schools across the country will join us. Schools will be allocated into "hubs" so that really close-knit families of Methodist schools can work together in each region.



### Key facts

Established in 2020 from two successful MATs.

Seven settings across two phases.

Founder schools all Outstanding / Good.

Currently the Trust supports 1,500 pupils and 230 staff.

The Trust has the capacity to grow with a strong central team.

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Our approach is not just about ensuring the highest of education standards, it is about ensuring our children are happy, healthy and ready for the world that awaits them.

### Just as an example of some of the recent stories:

#### Health and Wellbeing

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School achieved the 'Teach Well Gold Award' in July 2020. The award is provided to schools who have taken exceptional care of the physical and mental wellbeing of their staff through the COVID 19 pandemic

In addition the school has Young Mental Health Ambassadors, who champion health and wellbeing and help peers in making healthy lifestyle choices that affect mental health. The Mental Health Ambassadors have developed their knowledge and understanding of key physical, social and mental health issues affecting them today through working with an athlete mentor.

#### Reading at the heart of the Trust

The Trust always invests in reading. Recently children at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School have had a significant boost to their library as a new reading scheme was rolled out across our school.

In addition, how reading is taught has also evolved during lockdown. Pupils at Westleigh Methodist Primary School, for example, enjoyed lockdown story time so much, where the teachers recorded themselves reading a book for children to listen to at home, it has now become a permanent fixture in all the classrooms – which has inspired pupils to explore exciting new genres of books.

In addition, Year 6 prefects conducted their own story time sessions by recording videos of themselves reading books for Years 1 and 2.

#### National Awards Recognise the value of our Staff

Zoe Leyland from Summerseat Methodist Primary School has been shortlisted for a Pearson Teaching Award - known as the 'Oscars of the Education Sector' - as the New Teacher of the Year.

Zoe joined the school in June 2020 – and has been fundamental in reshaping the school with her enthusiasm, passion and dedication.

*“While results and outcomes are clearly important, we want to inspire our children, help them discover who they are, and instil in them the values that will enable them to be valuable members of their community. We want the very best for each-and-every one of them.”*

Julie-ann Hewitt, CEO







# GOVERNANCE

# SUPPORT SERVICES

We believe passionately in the importance of local governance in each of our schools. Governors are a vital link between the school’s community, the school and trustees – and the feedback and guidance that comes from Local Governance is both valued and valuable.

In a Trust, however, governance structure is different – and we use that to work to empower and define the roles of governance at every level of our organisation.

### Members

The line that is most commonly used about members is that they are “eyes on and hands off” meaning that while the operational side of Governance is handled by the Governing Bodies and Trustees, they take a very strategic overview. They also:

- Approve the Trust accounts and appoint the auditors.
- Appoint Trustees.

This group once a year annually and has a small number of annual statutory functions to carry out.

### Trustees

The Trustees have a range of powers and responsibilities which they are legally required to carry out, working in close partnership with the Chief Executive Officer and the central team to ensure that the academies provide the best possible education for all students and comply fully with the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Trust Board considers the vision and aims of Epworth and its schools, as well as strategy and policy to deliver its key objectives. It has ultimate responsibility for all budgets, salaries and safeguarding.

### Local Governance

Each school has Local Governance, known as a local advisory board, which enables it to focus on the performance and scrutiny of teaching and learning; student behaviour, attendance, safety and wellbeing; and community relations.

Good governance is about creating a true partnership between all three layers to champion, support and challenge each school.

Our support services are growing and strengthening so that as a Trust we have capacity and capability to allow our headteachers to focus on what matters most – teaching and learning, and the happiness of the staff and children in their school.

### To support this the Trust offers:

- ✿ Financial planning and administration
- ✿ Business operations and estates
- ✿ HR guidance and case work
- ✿ Governor services, including clerking
- ✿ PR and Marketing

*“Being in a Trust has really freed my time and focus. Whereas before a significant part of the job was just ensuring that the school was functioning and that people were where they needed to be – I now am empowered to actually focus on the things that are going to make a difference to our community.”*

**Julie Whittaker,**  
Summerseat Methodist Primary School.



We welcome enquiries from schools that may want to explore informal relationships as well as those looking to develop a more formal partnership with our Trust.

If you would like to get further information on ‘experiencing our offer’ and how this may benefit your school please do get in touch.



## Contact us

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