

Statement about Sexey's School, Bruton

The Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) is a medium-sized local Church of England trust, with students from 0-19 years, in secondary and primary schools serving local town and village communities in North Dorset and South Somerset.

Following OFSTED Inspections where Sexey's was found to be 'Inadequate' (March 2019), the South West Regional School's Commissioner (RSC) has made a decision that Sexey's School should join another trust to enable its long-term sustainability and to help it address the significant issues that were identified in the school.

The Trust was requested by the RSC to submit a sponsor application to be considered by the South West Head Teacher's Board. If this was approved the process to join the Trust as a formal partner would then commence.

We believe that there were opportunities for joint working and improvement support. The Trust has a wealth of experience and expertise including having a National Teaching School and National Support School. We have been very clear that every school in the Trust is an equal partner. There would have been no change to the name of the school, the uniform or admissions arrangements. We would have been working in a complementary way with the existing leaders and staff. There are obvious benefits of working together locally to enhance the quality of education for the students.

Any decision from the Trust about other schools joining always focuses on whether they share our core values. That means having a deep-rooted belief in partnership and collaboration, the pursuit of excellence, promoting holistic lifelong learning and recognising equality and distinctiveness. These align closely to the Church of England vision for education around community, wisdom, hope and dignity.

At this time, it is evident that there is not an alignment of values or partnership working with Sexey's. Therefore, the Trust will continue to focus on our current schools and others interested in joining in the future, who do share our values.

We thank the Headteacher and her colleagues who have sought to be professional and respectful during this process.