Shaw Education Trust

Parent Partnership Bulletin

November 2026

Shaw Education Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are receiving this first termly SET Parent Bulletin because your child attends a school that is part of Shaw Education Trust (SET). As CEO, I am delighted to welcome you to this new opportunity to connect with our wider Trust and begin building a closer partnership with you. Your child's school is an important part of our community of schools that work together to share expertise, opportunities and resources to help every child thrive.

Through this bulletin, we will explain the Trust's role in your child's education, celebrate the achievements of our pupils and colleagues, and share the difference we make by working together. Just as importantly, we want to hear from you: your experiences, ideas and feedback will help us understand what matters most to families and shape our work.

In this first edition of our SET Parent Bulletin, we would like to explain to you what a Multi Academy Trust is and our role in your child's education. We will provide information on Shaw Education Trust (who we are, what we stand for and how we work with our schools) and tell you more about how we support your child's school.

I hope you find this SET Parent Bulletin useful and interesting. You will find a link to a short survey at the end of the bulletin where you can tell us what you would like to know more about and how we can further develop our partnership with you. I look forward to strengthening the partnership between families, schools and the wider Trust as, together, we open doors to the world through the power of learning.

Kerry Inscker
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Shaw Education Trust



What does being part of Shaw Education Trust (SET) mean for your child?

What is a Multi- Academy Trust?



Multi-Academy Trusts, often called MATs, are part of the education system in England. They developed from the academies programme, with the first academy schools opening in 2002, and became more widespread following changes in the law in 2010.

A MAT is a charitable organisation that brings a group of schools together under one board of trustees, which is responsible for their education, finances and governance.

Schools in a MAT remain state-funded and free to attend. Being part of a trust allows schools to share expertise, staff development, resources and support, while continuing to serve their local communities. For families, this means your child's school belongs to a wider community of schools working together to provide the best possible education and opportunities for every child.

Over the years, more and more schools have joined MATs, so that today there are over 1,300 MATs in England serving over 11,000 schools.

What is Shaw Education Trust?



31
Schools

9 Primary Schools

9 Secondary Schools

13 Special Schools

Overall, we educate almost

12,000
Students

Shaw Education Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust. We cover a geographical base from Bury to Birmingham, Derby to Cheshire, with a large number of our schools in Staffordshire. In fact, we have 31 schools in our Trust, including 9 primary schools, 9 secondary schools and 13 special schools. Overall, we educate almost 12,000 students.

Each SET school keeps its own identity, character and connection with its local community, but it is also part of a much wider family of schools.

That means a Headteacher is not leading their school alone. Behind them is a wider network of education specialists, school leaders, teachers and professional teams who can provide support, advice, expertise and additional capacity when it is needed.

For parents and carers, much of this work happens quietly in the background. You may never see the finance team supporting your school, the safeguarding advice being provided, the building surveys taking place or the specialist educational support being given to school leaders.

But all these things contribute to the experience your child has at school.

Vision:

Opening doors to the world  through the power of learning

This means equipping every member of our Trust community with the **knowledge, skills, and confidence** to access opportunities, engage with society, and succeed in an ever-changing global community.

It reflects our deep commitment to understanding each individual's needs, nurturing their potential, and ensuring no barrier, personal, social, or educational, limits what they can become.

Shaw Education Trust

Values:

Opportunity

Integrity

Community

Equity

Opportunity



Opportunity means ensuring every student and staff member, has access to high-quality education and development, support, and pathways that enable them to grow, succeed, and reach their full potential.

Integrity



Integrity means acting with honesty, transparency, and consistency in all decisions and relationships, so that students, staff, families, and communities can place their trust in the way our organisation is led and governed at all levels.

Community



Community means working collaboratively across schools, families, and local partners to create a supportive, inclusive environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging, is valued, connected, and responsible for each other's success, and shares a feeling of pride in what we are achieving together.

Equity



Equity means recognising and responding to different needs so that resources, support, and opportunities are allocated fairly, ensuring every pupil and member of staff can thrive because they are cared about as an individual through our philosophy of 'one size fits one'.

This is not everyone getting the same, it is much deeper, it is everyone getting what they need to have the same opportunities and chance at success.

Who are Shaw Education Trust Schools?

Staffordshire

- Blackfriars Academy
- Coppice Academy
- Endon High School
- Kidsgrove Primary School
- Kidsgrove Secondary School
- Madeley School
- The Meadows Primary Academy (Blurton)
- The Meadows Primary School (Madeley Heath)
- Moorhill Primary School
- The Orme Academy
- Portland School
- Redhill Primary School
- Saxon Hill Academy
- Seabridge Primary School
- Streethay Primary School
- Walton Hall Academy
- Waterside Primary School

Greater Manchester

- Brookhaven School
- Tottington High School
- Unsworth Academy
- The Westleigh School
- Woodhey High School

Cheshire

- Brookfields Special School
- Hallwood Park Primary School and Nursery
- The Russett School

Derbyshire

- Ivy House School
- St Andrew's Academy
- St Martin's School

West Midlands

- Evergreen Academy
- Fortis Academy
- Pine Green Academy

What is the Role of Shaw Education Trust in Your Child's School?

In simple terms, SET exists to ensure your child's school is the very best it can be! We are here to provide schools with the support and resources they need to deliver a first-class education, ensuring your child is nurtured to achieve their potential. Our role is not to make every SET school the same.

Every school serves a different community and has its own students, colleagues, history and identity. Our approach is about understanding what each individual school needs and then providing the support around it to help it thrive.

Ultimately, everything we do as a Trust should come back to one question:



What difference does this make for our children and young people?

So, what does being part of SET actually provide?



Every SET school contributes towards what we call the **Trust Dividend.**

This allows the Trust to provide schools with a wide range of services, specialist support and expertise that they would otherwise need to provide or purchase individually.

SET is clear that this funding must provide value for money and that school leaders should understand what their contribution is paying for and have a voice in the services provided.

For parents and carers, though, the important part is not the list of services.

It is **what those services mean for your child.**

What being part of SET provides

High-quality education

What your school gets

- School improvement support
- Curriculum and subject expertise
- Teaching and learning support
- Extra help where needed

What this means for your child

- Stronger teaching and learning
- Access to wider expertise
- Support when a school needs to improve

What being part of SET provides

Great people working in our schools

What your school gets

- Recruitment and HR support
- Staff training and development
- Apprenticeships and qualifications
- Trust-wide professional networks

What this means for your child

- Skilled and well-supported staff
- Teachers who continue to learn and develop
- More expertise brought into the classroom

What being part of SET provides

Safe and well-maintained schools

What your school gets

- Estates and facilities support
- Health and safety checks
- Fire risk assessments
- Support with building projects

What this means for your child

- Safe, suitable places to learn
- Well-maintained school environments
- Leaders can focus more time on students

What being part of SET provides

Safe and reliable technology

What your school gets

- Specialist technical support
- Devices, systems and software
- Cyber-security and data protection
- Online safety monitoring and filtering

What this means for your child

- Reliable technology for learning
- Safer online systems
- Teachers focused on teaching, not tech

What being part of SET provides

Making the most of every pound

What your school gets

- Budgeting and financial support
- Payroll and audit services
- Group purchasing
- Contract negotiation

What this means for your child

- The impact of funding is maximised
- More resources are focused on students

What being part of SET provides

Safeguarding and support when it matters

What your school gets

- Safeguarding advice and training
- Policies and quality assurance
- Governance and compliance support
- Specialist advice for complex situations

What this means for your child

- An extra layer of safeguarding support
- Experienced advice when needed
- Stronger systems around keeping children safe

The strength of being part of something bigger

Not every benefit of being part of SET appears on a list of services.

There is also enormous value in simply being connected to other schools.

A Headteacher can speak to another Headteacher.

Teachers and leaders can share ideas.

Subject specialists can work together.

Colleagues can learn from people doing similar jobs in other SET schools.

Schools can share expertise and resources.

And when one school faces a challenge, there are people across the Trust who can help.

We also want being part of SET to increasingly create opportunities directly for children and young people, bringing students together, sharing experiences and opening up opportunities that individual schools may not be able to provide on their own.

Keeping what makes each school special

Being part of Shaw Education Trust does not mean every school should look or feel the same. Our schools serve very different communities and include primary, secondary and specialist settings.

That diversity is one of our strengths.

SET provides the framework, expertise and support around a school, but its individual character, relationships and connection with its community remain incredibly important.

We want every school to have access to the benefits of being part of a larger organisation while retaining what makes that school unique.

Free School Meals - Important Information for Families

Good news! From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit can now get free school meals, regardless of household income.

To receive free school meals, families will still need to complete an application. Eligibility is based on your current circumstances, so if you receive Universal Credit, we encourage you to check whether you qualify and apply as soon as possible. More information can be found here:

FSMs guidance for schools and local authorities.

Registering for free school meals can provide valuable support for your child and family, and may also help the school access additional funding to support pupils' education.

If you think you may be eligible, please contact the school office or visit your local authority's website for details on how to apply. We would encourage all eligible families to register and make sure they receive the support available to them.

You Said, We Listened

We would love to know what you would like to hear more about in our SET Parent Bulletin and would also welcome your suggestions for additional opportunities our Trust could provide to support your child and their school.

Please complete the following survey: it will take no more than two minutes to complete. Your views are so important to us, and we will then feed back to you via the 'You Said, We Listened' part of our SET Parent Bulletin.

Survey

Shaw Education Trust

Kerry Inscker (CEO);
Neil Warner (Deputy CEO);
Pete Potts (Chief Infrastructure and Assurance Officer);
Becky Beaty (Chief People Officer);
Catherine Hughes (Chief Financial Officer);
Nikki Labrum (Chief Digital Officer)