

United Learning Trust-Who are we?

United Learning Trust is part of an educational charity which was founded in 1883 and which went on to establish schools across the country, becoming a national driving force for school improvement. When the Academies Programme was launched in 2001 the government asked the charity to become involved and bring its experience of education to a wider and group of schools which were underachieving and needed support. We stepped forward to support the initiative and opened our first academy in Manchester in 2003. We are now the largest single sponsor of academies in the country. The original Christian foundation to our charity still remains but our academies have no faith designation; they are fully inclusive welcoming students of all faiths and none.

Our national experience and expertise is very wide ranging; we have taken schools at the brink of closing and turned them into beacons of achievement and aspiration in their community; at the same time we have continued to improve schools already with a good reputation. In addition, our sister organisation (United Church Schools Trust) have schools which consistently feature in the list of the country's top performing independent schools. We are preparing children from *all* backgrounds and abilities for the challenges of a global society and our aim- to bring out '*the best in everyone*'- is one that guides everything that we do. Three of the top four academies making the greatest improvement in GCSE results in the last year are ULT academies.

We are currently a group made up of 11 independent schools (of which 10 are "all through schools" and one is primary only) and 21 academies of which four are "all through". In our academies alone, we provide education to over 22,000 pupils, employing over 4,000 staff

As we look to the future we aim to remain at the forefront of education. With the expansion of the academies programme, we are being encouraged to grow by the government and add new academies to our Group. In order not to dilute the benefits which we can provide, we have established a strategy for growth that will see us developing clusters of academies within the regions where we already have a presence. Consequently, we are engaged in discussions with schools considering becoming academies in London, the south and south east of England, the north-west, the north-east, Yorkshire, and the south and east midlands. These include primary schools, outstanding schools and schools that are under-performing.

Our experience has shown us the importance of developing support strategies for schools that reflect the context in which they are operating. Schools are unique, as are the communities they serve, and so it is vital that any organisation like ourselves listens carefully to what is needed in each individual school and responds to the wishes and aspirations of each individual community. One size does not fit all!

Along with bespoke educational support, being part of United Learning Trust brings with it a range of other key services for schools. These include legal support and HR; training and development for staff; financial management and payroll services; ICT and e-learning support; a vast bank of educational resources; premises management advice and project management services.