
CHAIR'S STATEMENT 2017

Successes

This has been another year of growth and corporate improvement as well as school improvement within the St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust. Significant progress has been made towards our aim of being a sustainable, self improving MAT.

The St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust has continued to remain attractive to local schools considering joining a multi-academy trust. A success to be celebrated is the diversity of the schools within our family. Each brings an immediate offer to all of our other schools and the potential though collaboration remains endless.

We have always considered it important to share the experiences gained from our journey to date so that school leaders can make informed decisions regarding multi-academy trusts whether it be our trust or any other trust. It is pleasing to know that our Chief Executive continues to support many non St Bart's schools in this way.

Our portfolio of centrally provided support has continued to develop in quality to address the needs of our schools and to support effective leadership and governance.

Our planned pace of growth towards attaining economies of scale has been challenged by the barriers to academy conversion posed by the Stoke on Trent schools with PFI arrangements. Our organisation possesses able resource managers who have delivered on balancing revenues suppressed by slow conversions. They have continued with internal service delivery and external compliance.

Of great success has been our ability to partner with other agencies and continue our track record of gaining successful CIF bids for our schools. Significant capital funds have been gained and invested to transform our schools. We continue to be successful in comparison to other largely PFI authorities which tend to struggle to attain CIF grants.

Our strategy for school improvement continues to progress well. This is evidenced by the demonstrated progress reported in our internal assessments and reviews, and also by the external OfSTED reports and SIAMs. This past year the outcomes of those external reviews have been impressive.

Our organisation continues to deliver on developing leaders and succession management. The past year has seen the capabilities of some of our leaders tested and they have delivered, be it through external assessment or by progressing through promotion. This is one of our key strategies for success and it is more than pleasing to see our executive leaders delivering on this.

The Board

At the start of this year the board was changed. Board members who had contributed to setting up and establishing the St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust stepped down. Four board members were recruited and selected. These new board members bring a depth of technical, environmental, leadership, organisational and strategic skills that enhance the capability and potential of the board

to deliver to its stakeholders. The board now operates with specific committees to enable it to fully deliver its governance and compliance duties.

In summary

It has been a year of further progress – academically, strategically and operationally. There is, however, no complacency. We know we are in a rapidly changing service and we will continue to focus on both corporate as well as individual school success. We will accomplish this through our excellent people and, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our stakeholders and partners for their very considerable efforts in the past year.

Johnny Anderson
Chair
St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust