



**SENDAT**  
 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities  
 Academies Trust

## YOUR SCHOOL – YOUR CHILDREN - PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

### Where are you now?

Are you satisfied that you are providing everything necessary so that all your children and young people are achieving the best possible learning outcomes, both now and in the future? If so, you may see little need for change.

### What does the future hold?

However tempting it may be, looking inwards and celebrating our own success is a risk none of us can afford to take with the future of our young people. The world is changing around us and “the only thing that is constant is change” (Heraclitus c535 – c475 BC). The pace of change is increasingly rapid - Local Authorities continue to shrink and budgets will inevitably become even more challenging. The expectations placed upon schools’ Leadership teams and governing bodies continue to grow and pressures on staff colleagues at all levels are relentless.

We all want to do more for our children and the communities we serve..... so how can we adapt and continue to flourish?

### Working to secure the future

If, as we do, you believe that.....

- High quality education is best achieved when the needs of each individual pupil - social, emotional, spiritual and educational – are of paramount importance;
- Strong collaboration and mutual support between staff at all levels is essential to achieve the best outcomes;
- Working with partner schools/provisions who share your vision will enable sharing of expertise, resources and reduce administrative burdens;

.....we need to talk!

### Together we can make a difference

SENDAT is a multi-faceted partnership of equals, all committed to a journey of continuous improvement which will test and challenge all of us to continually improve our offer to families and young people.



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SENDAT is led by educational professionals with outstanding track records who will work with you, offering collaboration and support. We look for the outliers – those schools bucking the trend to achieve excellence – we visit, we absorb the aspects of their practice that we believe are appropriate to our context. We will help you to forge networks. We will provide regular updates on emerging practice and research. We will provide on-going learning and development opportunities for leaders and for leadership teams through our relationships with Teaching School Alliances, the National Governors Association Partnership and more. We will encourage you to explore, innovate and create.

We will bring a community of colleagues who share a commitment to collaborative working and to making their school or provision the best that it can possibly be. We believe that innovation is the lifeblood of a thriving education system.

## What autonomy do member schools have?

SENDAT offers collaboration, not prescription. We offer choice and guidance, not decisions made for you.

We want all of our schools to feel the benefits of autonomy through delegated responsibility and an infrastructure which will sustain future growth and development for all. Crucially, an autonomous school is a school that takes responsibility for itself within an agreed framework of decision making. Taking responsibility and accepting accountability are key components of success in schools and work tirelessly to ensure the on-going success of all our partner schools.

Our Scheme of delegation outlines how this delegated responsibility works in practice. SENDAT Academies have the autonomy to:

1. Set their own curriculum.
2. Have input into the shape of their school's budget and medium term plan
3. Having spending autonomy within their planned budget.
4. Work with partners of their choice.

The ability to maintain a high level of autonomy through delegated responsibility is a key reason to consider joining SENDAT. Our aim is to support and challenge you to become even better. We recognise the importance of ownership in inspiring schools to achieve beyond their previous best.

## What happens at Trust level?

The SENDAT infrastructure will provide:



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- Centralised services providing economies of scale and specialist expertise in Finance administration, Site services, IT, HR administration;
- Opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD) for staff at all levels across the Trust;
- Support and training for those responsible for governance;
- A firm foundation for successful schools to build on their success;
- Strong leadership and support for schools experiencing difficulty to achieve and underpin rapid improvement.

## How does it all work?

### Through sound operational management.....:

SENDAT provides hands on, practical support for all aspects of life in schools... crucially, provided by people who know because they are in there, doing it every day themselves.

- We have innovative curriculum design and development and we want to share it with you.
- We have the intellectual curiosity to explore emerging practice and apply 'What Works' We can support you to enhance your offer through collaboration.
- We can offer a comprehensive suite of Trust-level and school-level policies
- We can support your school office management function. We ease the administrative burden on School Leaders, by taking care of things like Business Continuity Planning, Risk Management, long-term premises management and planning and implementing change when necessary.

### .....And effective governance

Our Board includes successful business people, including a commercial Finance Director, people experienced in corporate governance and experts in education and health care. We have a CEO and a team of Executive Managers who are experienced, skilled and focused on the success of all our schools. We can and will constantly challenge as a critical friend and partner and help you to develop constructive and sustainable solutions, working with you to put in place the infrastructure and toolkits to achieve a successful partnership and the very best for our students.