

Newsletter



ONE Trust, One Vision, Ambition for All

A message from the CEO

On the 1st January we officially celebrated our first year as a multi-academy trust. It is remarkable how quickly the time goes and was an opportunity to reflect on all of the work and progress we have made within our first year as ONE (Owl North East) Trust. Despite the challenges of setting-up as a new organisation, we have continued to work collaboratively, finding new ways of working together, with the ultimate aim of advancing the education of all our pupils within the Trust. It is essential that we continue to revisit our vision and mission in order to remind ourselves that we are stronger as a collective, and that together we can achieve more.



'To build a shared learning community in which children, young people, staff and parents discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that endures throughout their lives.'

I have been very lucky to have visited all of our ONE Trust schools this term and I take every opportunity to meet with and speak to staff and pupils about what it is like to learn and work within a ONE Trust school. I am always overwhelmed by how polite and friendly our pupils are, and they are always willing to share their opinions and ideas with me.

I have also been extremely impressed by the openness of our staff and how proactive they are in sharing their ideas on how we can be better together.

This term, during my learning walks around the schools, I have had the privilege of observing teaching and learning and I believe that the pupils across our Trust are very lucky to be part of such forward-thinking schools, who always put children's personal development and quality of education at the heart of all they do.

Julie Stuart

Chief Executive Officer, ONE Trust



Ofsted Success

Two of the ONE Trust schools have recently undergone their first Ofsted inspections since converting to academies, marking a significant milestone in their journey.

Throckley Primary School received its inspection visit on the 14th and 15th of January. The school was evaluated across various areas, including leadership and management, quality of education, personal development, behaviour and attitudes, and provision in the Early Years. Throckley Primary achieved judgements of outstanding in all inspection areas, reflecting the exceptional efforts and dedication of the entire school community. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the staff, students, and parents. Congratulations to Throckley Primary for this fantastic achievement!

Knop Law Primary School had its inspection visit on the 18th and 19th of March. The school is still awaiting the final report from Ofsted. Knop Law Primary would like to extend heartfelt thanks to their staff, trustees, governors, parents, and pupils for their unwavering support and engagement throughout the inspection process. The collaborative efforts of the school community have been instrumental in navigating this important evaluation, and they eagerly anticipate sharing the final outcomes once the report is received.

These inspections assess the schools' progress in ensuring that they continue to provide high-quality education and support to their students. The Trust is proud of the achievements of both Throckley Primary and Knop Law Primary and looks forward to their continued success.

Investing in our school buildings and facilities

Effectively managing the school estates is crucial for maintaining a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment for students, staff, and visitors. The Trust has been diligently working on a comprehensive estates strategy, which was developed following thorough buildings and condition surveys conducted across all the schools within the Trust. These surveys provided valuable insights into the current state of the facilities, identifying areas that require attention and improvement.

With this strategic groundwork in place, the Trust is now ready to collaborate with school leaders to implement a detailed plan for the management and maintenance of the buildings, grounds, and infrastructure. This plan will encompass regular upkeep, timely repairs, and proactive measures to ensure that all facilities are in optimal condition.

The Trust's commitment to capital investment is a key component of this initiative. By allocating the necessary funds, the Trust aims to facilitate vital improvements across the entire estate. This investment will not only address immediate needs but also support long-term sustainability and resilience of the school environments. Ultimately, these efforts will contribute to creating a more conducive and enriching atmosphere for learning and development.

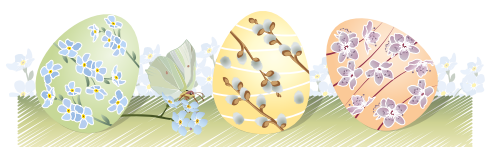
Opportunities for our pupils

Easter Gifts – Courtesy of Westerhope Golf Course

We would like to say a special thank you to Westerhope Golf Club for their very kind and generous gift of a selection of Easter Eggs for some of our ONE Trust pupils at Simonside Primary School.

We can't thank the members enough for bringing a smile to the faces of our Nursery children.

Emma Hills, Deputy Headteacher at Simonside Primary School



Sports Competitions

We have held two sporting events this term and have been so impressed by the participation of all of our schools.

The first event was a Year 5 and 6 basketball tournament, and the second was a Year 5 and 6 dodgeball tournament. The winner of the basketball event was Throckley Primary, and the winner of the dodgeball tournament (proudly picking up their first ONE Trust trophy!) was Milecastle Primary. Well done to all the children who took part and to the staff who accompanied them.

The staff were so impressed by the sportsmanship and quality of skills displayed by all of the children who took part. It is wonderful to get all of the children together in competitive sporting games and we are very much looking forward to our sporting events in summer term.

Jessica Cowling, PE Lead at Waverley Primary School



Throckley Primary -
Basketball



Milecastle Primary -
Dodgeball

Year 6 Careers Fair

Please see information below regarding our annual Y6 Careers Fair being held at Westerhope Primary School on 18th June 2025.

Can you inspire children and help them see what is possible for their future?



Help us create something inspiring!



For the third year, the ONE Trust will be hosting a **Year 6 Careers Fair** for our 350 Year 6 children, to help them see what they could do and achieve in the world of work.

Are you an electrician? A doctor? A nurse? A postman? A scientist? A hairdresser?



We would like individuals and businesses to host a stand and talk to children about their jobs, possible careers and help them see there is an exciting world of opportunity out there.

When: June 18th, 2025

Time: 8:30am—12:30pm (Children will arrive from 9:00am)

Where: Westerhope Primary School, NE5 1NE

Take part!

[Year 6 Careers Fair sign up](#)



ONE Trust Collaboration with Royal Grammar School

The ONE Trust continues to collaborate with Royal Grammar School on a range of activities, which provide opportunities for students and teachers alike.

In the past term, there have been particular highlights in sport, reading and robotics. Westerhope Primary have enjoyed their regular block of 'Swim Confidence Club' sessions, with all children making superb progress in their swimming, guided by Tracey from RGS and trainees from Northumbria University. The next group of swimmers to visit RGS are Milecastle Primary, who are very excited to develop their skills and confidence in the water.

Beyond the swimming pool, children have benefited from rugby sessions delivered by Charlie Maddison (ex-Newcastle Falcons) as well as the recent Basketball Festival.

In the classroom, the 1-1 reading and mentoring programme from RGS sixth formers continues in a number of ONE Trust schools. Through this long-term project, the RGS sixth formers develop valuable life skills, and the younger children benefit from an enhanced reading programme as well as bonding well with a group of role models who visit schools in-person on a weekly basis.

We are incredibly excited for the upcoming Robotics event, hosted at Throckley Primary. Dr Steve Bunce has visited each of the Trust schools for taster sessions, and will bring all of the groups together for a fun robotics event.

John Smith, Director of Partnerships at Royal Grammar School and Trustee for the ONE Trust



Investing in our Staff

English Network

The English Network meetings have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and enhancing English education across our schools. They provide a platform for subject leads and colleagues to share effective teaching strategies for writing progress, discuss spelling instruction, and identify key resources for an inclusive approach to teaching English.

Participants have exchanged innovative methods for supporting writing and spelling, considering diverse student needs. The meetings also address bridging the gap between Early Years and Year One, developing strategies for a smooth transition.

Guided by well-structured agendas, these meetings ensure focused and productive discussions. Positive feedback highlights their value in improving English education for all pupils. The upcoming summer term meeting will focus on Key Stage One, including writing moderation for Year 1 and Year 2 across the Trust.

Victoria Purdy, English Lead at Westerhope Primary School

Early Years Network

Our Early Years Network recently hosted James Tunnell from Nursery Nook for a valuable session on 'loose parts' play. This training allowed us to reflect on and enhance our learning environments.

We deepened our understanding of loose parts play, which involves providing children with open-ended materials like stones, sticks, buttons, and fabric scraps to stimulate creativity and imagination. James shared practical strategies for introducing these resources to encourage exploration and discovery, highlighting their benefits for fine motor skills, cognitive growth, and social interaction.

We also discussed the crucial role of adults in facilitating loose parts play. The emphasis was on being attentive and responsive facilitators, helping to foster creativity, problem-solving skills, and language development without imposing rigid structures.

Overall, the session equipped us with valuable knowledge and tools to enhance our early years practice, leaving us inspired and eager to implement these principles for the benefit of the children's holistic development.

Carol Knowles, Early Years Lead at West Denton Primary School



Pupil Book Study

As a Trust, we are committed to the continued development of our staff team for the benefit of enhancing of our pupils' education. Last term, we embarked on the Pupil Book Study project, which aims to support leaders at all levels in quality assuring each school's curriculum offer, whilst checking in on the lived experience of our pupils. Pupil Book Study puts learners at the centre of curriculum monitoring and asks the following questions:

- Does the curriculum intent match what pupils know and remember?
- How well are pupils able to confidently discuss their knowledge and understanding?
- Can pupils make meaningful links across subject disciplines?
- How effective is classroom pedagogy in supporting pupils to know more, and remember more?

Building on professional development sessions from autumn term, staff across the Trust have worked collaboratively to share best practice based on research into cognitive science. Carefully planned lesson sequences, which are facilitated with consistency and precision, support pupils to retain essential knowledge and skills. Pupil Book Study then allows us to test out knowledge retention and gives pupils the opportunity to articulate their understanding. It has been a joy to see children across the Trust talk so passionately and confidently about their learning! It is wonderful to see a collective pedagogy taking shape across the Trust and links being forged across our schools.

Lynsey Giblin, Co-Headteacher at Throckley Primary School

P.E. Network

At our recent PE network meeting, we were lucky to have a guest speaker, Adam Batley, from Newcastle PE and School Sport Service.

We explored the key elements that make an outstanding PE lesson. The session focused on effective lesson structure, engagement strategies, and differentiation to meet the needs of all students. We discussed the importance of clear learning objectives, high expectations, and active participation, ensuring that lessons are both challenging and enjoyable.

Colleagues shared best practices, including innovative warm-up activities, assessment for learning techniques, and ways to incorporate student voice.

The meeting provided valuable insights and practical takeaways to enhance the quality of PE teaching across our schools.

Kate Dalkin, PE Lead at Westerhope Primary School

Music Network

ONE Trust's second music network meeting this term brought together music leads to share insights and experiences. They discussed the impact of a weekly listening spine, which enriches children's musical exposure with a diverse range of songs and artists.

The meeting then explored composition opportunities, sharing strategies for encouraging students to compose music using various instruments and voices, emphasizing creativity and self-expression.

Finally, they focused on transcription in music, exchanging practices for building formal music notation skills using concrete and pictorial representations to help students visualise and understand musical concepts, enhancing their ability to read and write music.

Rebecca Jennings, Music Specialist at Knop Law Primary School



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support

The Trust's SEND support network fosters collaboration and professional development among staff across all schools. It provides opportunities for regular meetings, specialised training, and sharing best practices to support pupils with SEND effectively.

In the spring term, two significant meetings were held. The January meeting focused on the Newcastle Local Authority's new "Rainbow" support plans, offering insights into detailed descriptors of need and assessment criteria for SEND children. The March session, delivered by Clennell Education Solutions, focused on de-escalation techniques, providing practical tools for staff. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the benefits of knowledge gained and networking opportunities. These meetings foster a supportive and collaborative environment.

Looking ahead, the Trust is committed to continuing these networking and training opportunities to ensure staff are further equipped to support SEND and enhance pupils' overall educational experience.

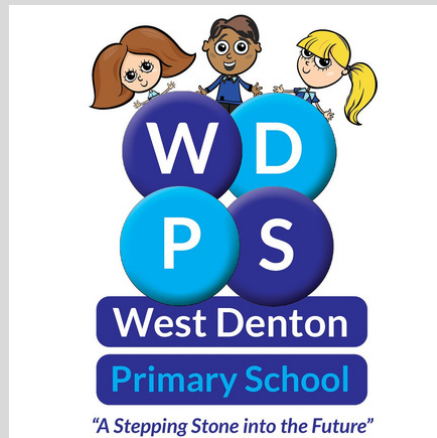
Judith Robertson, SENDCo at Knop Law Primary School

Staffing Update

A new appointment at West Denton Primary School

A new Head Teacher, Gavin Johnston, will be starting with us, after Easter, at West Denton Primary School. Gavin joins us from Northumberland and has a wealth of experience as a primary headteacher. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him into the ONE Trust family.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachael Croll for her commitment and dedication to the role of Acting Head Teacher during this interim period. She has worked extremely hard and ensured that the school has progressed effectively during this transitional phase. Rachael will be returning to her role as Deputy Head Teacher, and is looking forward to working with Gavin as part of the West Denton team.



ONE Trust Recruitment

The ONE Trust schools have had a number of teaching and support staff vacancies this term and anticipate further openings as we approach summer term. These new positions present exciting opportunities for current staff members to explore new roles within the Trust, as well as inviting new individuals to join our dynamic team. We encourage interested candidates to visit the [Trust](#) and the individual school websites for more detailed information on all our new vacancies and instructions on how to apply.

For those seeking further information about any of the available positions, please do not hesitate to contact the schools directly, or email the Trust at info@onetrustacademies.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming new talent to our team and continuing to provide high-quality education and support to our students.

A message from the Chair of the ONE Trust Board

It is a pleasure to contribute to the newsletter. For those who don't know me, like many of the Trustees, I had a long-term association with one of the schools in the Trust as a Chair of governors and was heavily involved in setting up and chairing the Foundation Trust which was the precursor to our Academy status. My fellow Trustees come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring their many skills, expertise and commitment to providing support and challenge to the CEO in delivering the strategic plan. We have worked closely with the CEO to establish a strong governance structure so that we can fulfil the many duties of the Trust Board. We are grateful for the input from the Chairs' Forum and Headteacher group in developing shared approaches to documentation and communication with governing bodies.

Since the Trust was formed we have been very keen to build strong communication with each school and have, with the agreement of Headteachers and Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies, set up a number of visits so that Trustees can learn more about individual schools and also meet more staff, governors and children. Since September, Trustees have been involved in a range of activities including Headteacher Recruitment, Ofsted inspections, focused visits with governors, and school performances. We look forward to deepening communication links with governing bodies more in the future as we recognise how important they are.

It is a privilege to witness the ONE Trust progress from its infancy to a position of strength. All of our schools continue to provide a great education for the children and the families and communities they serve, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for us all in our collaborative work.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter break!

Helen Richardson, Chair of the ONE Trust Board of Trustees

