



## Impact Statement 2020/2021



The academic year 2020/2021 marks our second year as a cooperative trust. Due to the continuing global pandemic COVID19, many of our planned events involving face to face activities have had to be postponed. This has not stopped us to continue to collaborate and support each other. We continue to further the work of the Trust through our shared aims:

- **Create an ethos of mutual support and transparency in working towards school improvement across schools within the partnership**

Despite the pandemic, relations have continued to strengthen between schools. Heads report the silver lining of the pandemic was the opportunity to meet on a regular basis to provide support to each other in unprecedented times. The group met on a weekly basis to share experience, expertise, rationale and ensure a consistency across the Trust in terms of risk assessment, use of face coverings, expectations, whilst continuing with site specific operations. The group was supported by personnel from DCC including school improvement advisor Jo Dymond.

There have been a number of other cross school collaborations within the Trust including SENDCOs, subject leaders, participation in the DCC inclusion project and chairs of governor support.

Heads have shared an open and transparent relationship, including sharing of school improvement plans to drive forward priorities and identify shared strengths and areas for improvement and further collaboration.

- **Improve progress and outcomes for all children, young people and staff by analysing data across the partnership to inform how we work and how we measure success**

Through the above collaboration we prioritised facilitating the meeting of SENDCOs and maths and English coordinators. This enabled the sharing of best practice for example examples of English writing have been shared virtually to support moderation. Planned dates for further moderation have been diarised and this will continue to be a key activity to inform progress and how we measure. SENDCO collaboration has enabled us to share expertise and best practice. This has been especially important in the current financial climate and how we best support our children through remote learning and in school. SENDCOs are now meeting half termly and is hoped this will be extended to other subject leads to further the



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sharing of best practice and experience. Vocabulary and Decision Spelling projects were also shared across the Trust and together with the planned work on moderation will lead to consistency in teaching and learning practice and further assurance that our judgments are robust, secure and informed by consistent practice.

- **Provide opportunities for all our children, young people, staff, leaders and governors to work and grow alongside one another, building positive relationships across a variety of curriculum and enrichment activities**

Once again, despite our plans for many shared events we were not able to fulfil our commitments in this area. That being said, some shared events took place – for example a year 5 & 6 cricket and art events across schools. We are also very proud of our pastoral teams across the trust – working together to support hard to reach and vulnerable families through the pandemic. This supported our mission to work together to support each other and support well-being. Through the collaboration mentioned we know that heads, staff, children and families have been supported through the pandemic, with mental health a high priority.

- **Identify teams across the partnership to share subject expertise in curriculum, training and ‘business’ areas of school life so that we take advantage of economies of scale**

Maths and English subject leaders have been meeting – with postponed moderation events planned for this coming year. As a result of this, we have planned for foundation subject leaders to meet and continue to develop our broad and balanced curriculum offer across the trust for our individual schools. Further work is planned to discuss and improve transition to secondary, with visits to be made to school by the academy to understand the taught curriculum at transition level better. This will continue to improve how we measure success.

All schools took part in shared events within their settings such as Hello Yellow for mental health (a local campaign) and implementing Black History Month across all schools – promoting a joined-up curriculum.

We identified further group working opportunities between chairs of governors, SEND governors and business managers and it is hoped this work will begin and continue into this academic year as we move out of restrictions.

- **Build additional partnerships with supportive organisations, to encourage our communities to be outward-looking**

We continue with our partnership with Atlantic Coast Cooperative Trust (Nick Plumb continues to sit on the board for ACCT with Jeremy Cooper representing ACCT on our board) and work began to identify future partnership organisations who share



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common ideals. Local organisations have been approached and we continue to try to grow our partnerships in order to enhance our offer. We have continued to raise our profile within the local community, taking part in various community events such as the “Hands” display in Braunton village and cricket event. Directors attended Braunton Together meetings and this acted as a vehicle for our shared pupil voice.

In summary, while we have not been able to fulfil our original intent we set out in our original plan – the pandemic has given us the ability to forge and maintain relationships more quickly than we would have done in normal circumstances. Collaborative work has continued and despite the challenges COVID19 has brought us, for all the reasons above we are Braunton Learning Cooperative Trust – working together.

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