

StandOut

MAT news



The
Sovereign
Trust

Our values

The Sovereign Trust MAT is a family of schools who believe that by learning and growing together we can:

- **Inspire:** Enable all pupils to achieve and develop to their highest potential through inspirational teaching
- **Nurture:** Create an environment that nurtures, encourages exploration, celebrates creativity and forges a love of learning.
- **Support:** Support both pupils and families alike in creating the ethos that our family of schools shares.
- **Passion:** Encourage strong and passionate leadership that is central in helping every pupil to flourish.
- **Include:** Provide a fully inclusive environment to ensure differing needs, cultures and abilities are respected and valued.
- **Respect:** Remain vigilant in how we treat each other, ensuring the respect of each other and of the views of others.
- **Enjoy:** Include fun and enjoyment in our curriculum that we believe supports a positive learning environment.

The Executive Team of The Sovereign Trust

Beverley Owens

Chief Executive Officer

Ian Hilton

Chief Finance Officer

Tracey Nolan

Estates Manager

**Andy Wilson /
Sophie Tothill**

HR Manager

Update on the progress of The Sovereign Trust

Since becoming a Multi Academy Trust in 2016

Since becoming a Multi Academy Trust on 1st January 2016, the two schools Manor High and Pictor have continued to provide exceptional opportunities for our pupils.

Towards the end of 2016, the DfE recognised the skills within the Trust and suggested that we apply to become an Academy Sponsor. This means that we are qualified to support schools experiencing difficulties or being categorised by Ofsted as requiring immediate support to improve (Special Measures). Those schools would then become part of the Trust.

The DfE asked us to support New Park School in Salford in 2017. This school caters for pupils from the age of 7 to 16 who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties. There are two separate sites, a primary site and secondary site. New Park School joined the Sovereign Trust on 1 June 2018.

The overall structure of the Trust will be ever changing and we are prepared for that, as the Trust has to grow in order to survive financially but also to share our incredible expertise. Growth is becoming increasingly challenging as government strategy has changed in that the academy policy is no longer a priority for them, there is no pressure being put on schools to convert unless they fall into special measures.

Funding

Chancellors budget news:

Schools will share £400 million to help them buy “the little extras they need”, the chancellor has announced.

Philip Hammond’s reference to “little extras” for schools prompted anger and ridicule on Twitter.

Unveiling the 2018 Budget this afternoon, Mr Hammond said the government was “investing record amounts in our schools”, but acknowledged that “schools budgets do not stretch to that extra bit of kit that would make such a difference”.

He described the extra £400 million as an “in-year bonus to help our schools buy the little extras they need; a one-off capital payment directly to schools averaging £10,000 per primary school and £50,000 per secondary school”.

The NAHT Headteachers’ union said the announcement would “infuriate school leaders”, adding that the Budget had “more money proposed for potholes than for pupils”.

As a public service, we are directly affected by government changes, education minister changes and new strategies that come from that department.

Continued on next page

Funding continued

We are used to adapting to these demands but what has happened over the last few years is that funding has significantly reduced. Despite the assurances by the government that funding has increased in schools, this is not reality.

Pension contributions rose significantly on becoming an Academy Trust, NI contributions escalated, cost of utilities increased as did the cost of living generally. None of this was funded by the government but still has to be found from the funds that they determine our academies need. The funding for pupils has not increased for the past 10 years.

The SEND provision in most areas is in financial crisis.

It is a nationwide problem, not one that is specific to academies or special schools. Most schools and academies have had to make reductions in staffing levels over the last few years, some even reducing the number of days the schools are open to pupils. Many schools are setting deficit budgets, something that was unheard of years ago.

We have been able to manage without seeing much impact on our academies, as we were able to use accumulated surpluses and by generating some additional funds by letting the buildings out of school hours.

However, this year is very different. We have had to look closely at how we can still provide an excellent standard of education, care and support for our pupils within a budget that is hugely constrained by lack of government funding.

The teacher's salary increases that are long overdue have been approved but are only partially funded by the government, and only promised for one year. We need to maintain the high quality of staff that we already have in order to maintain and continue to improve our provision.



Why fit in
when you were
born to stand out?

Dr Seuss

Academy News

Each academy has their own website that links to the Sovereign Trust website.

Lots of information about the academy can be found on it and the contact details are available if you have an enquiry.



Grove Lane, Timperley
WA15 6PH
0161 912 3082
www.thesovereigntrust.uk

Manor Academy

Manor Academy's great news is that during their recent Ofsted Inspection on 4/10/2018 they received a judgement of being a Good school. This is a great achievement. The Ofsted 'letter' describing the school was sent out to all parents and will soon be available on the website. The website is currently undergoing an overhaul and is being updated.

There has been extensive building work carried out at Manor Academy over the last 2 years. The funding for this comes directly from the DfE following a lengthy application process, this is not always successful but we have managed to secure funding to replace the roof and currently the windows and facia. Replacement of boilers form the basis of our next application for 2018/19.

New Park Academy

New Park Academy is a specialist provision for pupils aged 7-16 who have been assessed as having social, emotional and/or mental health difficulties, often linked to other issues such as specific and/or moderate learning or communication difficulties.

Their aim is to make their curriculum as exciting as possible for the children and young people so they can regain their confidence in learning. Their own staff and other professionals create a wraparound service to ensure that they can meet the pupils' needs in a holistic manner.

At New Park, they help children be respectful, well-mannered and tolerant citizens of the local and wider community.

Pictor Academy

Pictor Academy is due an Ofsted Inspection soon and will be aiming to be judged an Outstanding provision for the fourth time.

Trafford's SEND review demanded that all the SEN schools in the borough became generic and attendance would be by postcode area. This has been challenging at Pictor only due to the design of the building. It was built in 2003 as a school for pupils with Speech and Language Difficulties, Autism and Learning Difficulties. As children with more significant medical and physical needs have begun to attend, the building has shown itself to be 'short on space'. Children with more profound difficulties may have wheelchairs, standing frames, other equipment and require different resources. Pictor were assured that any building changes required, including hoists, would be provided by the Authority. The majority of their assurances have not materialised, however they have recently agreed to fund some hoists. These challenges have to be met in order to meet the pupils' needs and have placed additional stresses on an already reduced budget.

Pictor Academy has been successful in receiving funding from the DfE to replace the boilers. This is complete. Currently awaiting hoists and tracking being fitted in several areas of school, this is being funded by Trafford Local Authority.