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| Title of paper | Nottingham Schools Trust update |
| Report to | Nottingham City's Children's Partnership Board |
| Date of meeting | 29 September 2020 |
| Contact details | P A / S A Fielding |
| Relevant CYPP priority | Supporting Achievement and Academic Attainment' |
| Summary of key issues, what is going well, what is being developed (5 minute overview) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieving our ambition 2. Our extensive core offer 3. Levels of accountability 4. Cause for celebration – overall effectiveness / pupil outcomes / Under One Sky |

PURPOSE

Nottingham Schools Trust was launched in September 2017 in order to establish a body that had the capacity to represent, lead, challenge, support and work **on behalf of Nottingham City Council and its maintained schools**. It was designed to allow school leaders to play their part in realising the vision of collective moral purpose and a shared commitment to the achievement and success of all children in the Trust. Our collective ambition was to enable:

Our children to

- **be well prepared for the next stage in their lives** and given every opportunity to fulfill their potential, particularly the most vulnerable
- be given ambitious targets and have their learning and progress effectively monitored
- be nurtured to become confident individuals, responsible citizens and successful lifelong learners
- **be engaged, excited and motivated through a broad and balanced curriculum**

Our schools to:

- **retain maintained status and closely aligned to the Local Authority**
- retain their individual characteristics
- be good or better and therefore avoid imposed intervention
- collaborate rather than compete
- **exploit our strengths**

Our Trust to:

- be run by our schools for our schools
- **create stability and avoid further fragmentation and segregation**
- establish a cost effective, sustainable and future proof approach to education in Nottingham
- enable us to work together to make our schools stronger and more resilient
- protect and celebrate autonomy

ADMINISTRATION

The Trust office is based in the former Sure Start Children's Centre building at Walter Halls Primary and Early Years School and manages its own website and Twitter account which can be found at;

<http://www.nottinghamschoolstrust.org.uk/>

Twitter: @NST_Forschools

Trust membership: 36 schools including 31 maintained primary schools, 4 special schools (one of which is an academy) and 2 stand-alone primary academies.

Trust Governance is strong and the board of directors includes 1 NCC Cllr appointed Director, partner solicitor (Browne Jacobson), Senior Regional Officer NAHT, 2 serving Head Teachers, 1 recently retired Head Teacher and senior School Improvement Adviser, recently retired Senior Manager of corporate banking, Chief Commissioning Officer Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, Corporate PR Consultant.

The Core team consists of CEO, administrative officer (1 FTE) and an NCC sponsored procurement specialist (0.2). The Trust purchases the support of a finance officer (12 days per year).

The termly NST Members meetings follow the NCC LA briefing meeting. The Board of Directors meet termly. Emanating from the Board meeting are the Performance and Standards Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee who also meet termly and report back at Members meetings.

The Trust is a registered company limited by guarantee and has an underlying business plan, articles of association, risk register, asset register, Financial Scheme of Delegation, SIA Handbook, is VAT registered and submits its accounts annually to HMRC. In its first two financial years the Trust has received a clean bill of health and in 2019 NCC commissioned a full audit of the Trust.

Funding comes from a combination of member school subscription (£5100.00 + VAT per year) and NCC grant funding. In our view this provides tremendous value for money.

NST CORE OFFER

In order to meet the enhanced school improvement advisory, challenge and support offer the Trust has sourced and deploys 9 high quality School Improvement Advisers on a consultancy basis who visit member schools for up to 5 days each year and engage in a broad range of challenge and support interventions. The Trust has an agreed level of flexibility to allow additional SIA deployment dependent upon need. SIAs also lead 1 and 2 day whole school reviews to inform the risk assessment, analysis and intervention programme. This area of work includes working closely with the NCC data team.

The Trust also deploys its range of Advisers and school based staff to author a broad suite of supporting curriculum resources, documents, templates and policies which are stored centrally on the Trust website. Member schools remind us of the quality and efficiency of this aspect of the Trust's work particularly when staff wellbeing and reduced bureaucracy are at the top of the national agenda. Additionally the Trust meets termly with NCC Human Resource consultants to develop the extensive HR policy suite and to ensure we remain aligned to NCC/national policy and accompanying guidelines.

SCHOOL TO SCHOOL ENGAGEMENTS

The Trust also has access to a range of expert/accredited practitioners working in its schools to include NLE, LLE, SLE, Ofsted trained, outstanding class based practitioners, admin/business management staff. This gives us a further 100+ days of school to school support when required.

The Trust has established 16 subject Leader networks that meet termly. These are led and managed by a mixture of school based experts and national consultants;

The NST summer term series of Subject Leader Networks saw 14 different sessions delivered, between Monday 3rd June and Monday 10th June.

231 people attended the summer term series of network meetings; 220 from NST schools and 11 from other schools resulting in 456 hours of CPD being delivered to staff from NST schools. A total of 1,265.25 hours of CPD were delivered via our Subject Leader Network meetings during 2018/19.

32 of the 36 NST schools attended at least 1 network. The average number of Networks attended by the 32 participating schools was 7. **We asked attendees to rate their experience at network meetings out of 10, with 1 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest.** All of our meetings were scored at least 8/10 by attendees. 9/14 meetings scored 9/10 or higher.

NST WORK PROGRAMME 2018-2020

The Trust has an extensive Work Programme that has exceeded our expectations in terms of the breadth and depth of activity. We currently provide;

| Strand | Project Focus |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Literacy | Reading SSIF project |
| | Building capacity |
| | Writing moderation networks |
| | English subject leader network |
| | Phonics network |
| | Oracy-Voice Nottingham |
| Maths | Number fluency |
| | MAST |

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| | Maths SSIF project |
| | Maths subject leader network |
| | Maths for TAs conference |
| Assessment | Moderation |
| | APR framework |
| | ASP |
| | SEND |
| | Pupil premium narrative |
| Teaching and Learning | Quality First teaching |
| | Y6 network |
| | BST |
| | LAC DT network |
| Safeguarding | MyConcern resource and support |
| | DSL / ADSL networks |
| | Whole school audit and QA |
| | Range of training offers – statutory / refresher |
| | PSHE network |
| | Youth mental health first aid |
| Leadership and Management | Ofsted updates |
| | Peer challenge / recruitment to headship |
| | New to headship |
| | Foundation subjects leader networks |
| | Model M and E, SEF, SIP documentation |
| | Schools Forum consultancy support |
| | Policy templates |
| | Middle leader training-Careering Ahead |
| | Head of School, AHT training |
| | NQT provision |
| | Curriculum development |
| | HR working party network |
| Efficiencies | MyConcern / Catering contract negotiations / cleaning contract negotiations / GDPR ADPO network established and auditing school practice / Estate review |

Activities are based on need and attendance varies according to each member school's development priorities.



ACCOUNTABILITY

From inception neither NCC nor member schools have seen the Trust as a soft option. Its work is underwritten by 7 ambitious, Key Performance Indicators that are robust, rigorous and designed to ensure our schools meet the complex and challenging range of children's needs and include:

- All schools judged good or outstanding
- Teaching, learning and assessment judged good or better
- Pupil outcomes in our schools exceed floor targets and are comparable with the best outcomes in similar schools.
- Our schools will demonstrate good and outstanding leadership and management, including governance.

- Our schools will accurately self-evaluate and have a culture of continuous improvement and high aspiration.
- High-quality CPD for all staff which means our schools attract and retain the very best-we are not proposing establishing a TSA function but will purchase appropriate, refined and cost effective CPD from local providers (where possible).
- All schools are financially solvent

The CEOs author a termly account of progress against the 7 KPIs and present to the;

- NST Board of Directors
- NST member schools
- NCC Portfolio holder for education
- Director of Education
- Director of Education Services
- NCC Schools Causing Concern meeting
- Children’s Partnership Board
- JCNC



OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

The significant upward improvement trend continues and we are now above the LA and National figures for overall effectiveness for both Good+ and outstanding measures. 94.5% of NST schools are judged to be good or better by Ofsted which compares well with the national figure of 87.7% and the overall LA figure of 90.4%.

PUPIL OUTCOMES 2019

End of EYFS data

The gap between NST and the national average has increased to -6.7% from -4% in 2018.

End of KS1 data

Phonics - In 2019 77.4% of pupils in NST schools met the expected phonics standard in year 1 (6 year olds), above 2018 (76.7%). This has built on the significant improvement seen but remains below national and LA.

KS1- By the end of KS1 there remains a gap between NST schools and national averages in all measures as expected.

End of KS2 data

Our end of Key Stage 2 outcomes are cause for celebration and demonstrate the positive impact for pupils over time in NST schools. Despite their low baselines pupils make rapid progress and secure outcomes which are in line with national in all areas (within 1 or 2 %). In maths and GPS NST schools have exceeded the national average figures. This has never been done before! In all areas there has been significant improvement as can be seen in the chart below. In reading, writing and maths combined 65.7% of pupils achieved the expected standard (compared with 60.3% in 2018). This compares to the England 2018 average of 65.3%, a gap of +0.4%, and the LA average of 63.4% with a gap of +2.3%

| Key Stage 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|---------|-------|
| School Name | Achieved Standard or Above | | | | | Achieved Greater Depth | | | | | Progress Score | | |
| | RWM | Reading | Maths | GPS | Writing | RWM | Reading | Maths | GPS | Writing | Reading | Writing | Maths |
| National | 65.3% | 73.7% | 79.1% | 78.5% | 78.9% | 10.6% | 27.2% | 26.8% | 35.9% | 20.2% | +0.04 | +0.03 | +0.05 |
| Nottingham LA | 63.4% | 71.1% | 78.7% | 77.4% | 75.5% | 8.8% | 22.8% | 25.5% | 35.3% | 18.5% | +0.81 | +1.04 | +1.25 |
| NST | 65.7% | 73.5% | 81.2% | 79.7% | 76.9% | 9.8% | 25.8% | 27.2% | 36.8% | 17.8% | +1.46 | +1.24 | +1.94 |
| Difference NST and National | +0.4% | -0.2% | +2.1% | +1.2% | -2.0% | -0.8% | -1.4% | +0.4% | +0.9% | -2.4% | +1.42 | +1.21 | +1.89 |
| Difference NST and LA Schools | +2.3% | +2.4% | +2.5% | +2.3% | +1.4% | +1% | +3.0% | +1.7% | +1.5% | -0.7% | +0.65 | +0.20 | +0.69 |

We are pleased to share our national rankings out of 149 LA's which are shown in yellow below.

| Measure | NST % | NST Rank out of 149 LAs | Nottingham % | Nottingham Rank out of 149 LAs |
|---------|-------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
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|--------------|--------|----|-----|-----|
| READING EXS+ | 72.25% | 88 | 70% | 114 |
| READING HIGH | 25.13% | 96 | 22% | 133 |
| WRITING EXS+ | 77.57% | 74 | 74% | 137 |
| WRITING HIGH | 17.75% | 95 | 18% | 95 |
| MATHS EXS+ | 82.20% | 23 | 78% | 83 |
| MATHS HIGH | 26.71% | 66 | 25% | 86 |
| GPS EXS+ | 79.72% | 39 | 76% | 111 |
| GPS HIGH | 35.64% | 62 | 35% | 69 |
| RWM EXS+ | 66.36% | 51 | 62% | 106 |
| RWM HIGH | 9.63% | 69 | 9% | 88 |

Progress KS1-2

We were pleased to note that our pupils continue to make rapid progress between KS 1 and 2. Progress scores remain very positive for the NST schools and are all above the national average as well as above the local and regional averages for all subjects. Progress scores all show improvement. This ranks the city as 29th for reading (0.8), 21st for writing (1.0) and 27th for maths (1.2) out of 151 LAs which is good. However **it ranks NST as a hypothetical LA as 10th for reading (1.4), 15th for writing (1.2) and 8th for maths (1.9) out of 151 LAs.**

'UNDER ONE SKY'

During Summer 2019 schools in the Trust were invited to take part in a **Year 4 art based printing project**, which involved working with a local artist on the printmaking technique **Collograph**.

The piece of work was designed to celebrate our world **Under One Sky** – a bold and colourful way to celebrate our city, our connections and our world - encouraging pupils to work collaboratively and feel a sense of belonging to school, Nottingham and planet earth.

The final piece featured Nottingham's:

- Sky – birds, flying insects, clouds, sun, moon, stars.
- Earth – cityscapes, schools, buildings, parks, trees.
- Water – the river Trent – water, boats, fish, reptiles and riversides.
- Underground – earth, fossils, roots, animals, insects.

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he artists for The NST Big Exhibition then made a giant version of the print which was exhibited in the Learning Studio at Lakeside Arts Centre 12-17th October 2019 and then Loxley House foyer.

