

St Aidan's and Anthony's Sixth Form

Memorandum of understanding
[June 2023]



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1 Background

St. Aidan's & St. Anthony's Catholic Academies have provided first-rate education for generations of Sunderland's young people.

We are a vibrant, diverse and exciting community with a wealth of experience in helping to guide students through to their next stage. St. Anthony's has had a Sixth Form since 1921, and St. Aidan's has been educating young men since 1928. After many years of working together, the relationship was strengthened in 2018 with joint facilities and lessons, allowing for the provision of over 30 A level and BTEC subjects, giving students an unparalleled range of subjects and combinations to choose from.

What makes St. Aidan's and St. Anthony's Sixth Form so special, is our many years of experience; the quality of teaching; the level of pastoral encouragement, support and guidance and the strength of our Catholic ethos. All of this helps the student develop into well rounded individuals- fine young adults prepared to face the adult world with confidence.

It is an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders involved.

2 Partnership aims and objectives

2.1 St Aidan's and St Anthony's 6th Form is an inclusive, co-educational community founded upon Christian values, academic excellence, and high-quality pastoral care. We continually strive for our students to fulfil their God given potential through a holistic approach to post 16 education. Our provision is driven by our belief in developing rounded individuals equipped with the skills and qualifications to go on to university or excellent career path.

We achieve this through:

- A vibrant and world-class education which encourages the development of the whole person. The desire of our Sixth Form community is to excel at every level. We have highly skilled and expert staff that provide exceptional teaching, learning, enrichment, and pastoral support.
- Pastoral leaders who are dedicated to empowering students to achieve their goals to succeed and progress. We have dedicated careers leads, mental health first aiders and a wider support team, all ensuring that the experience of sixth form is a positive one
- Equipping all students with the skills and knowledge to prepare them well for future education, employment, and adult life. Our students tell us that they enjoy sixth form and the student satisfaction rates are very high, this leads to our strong links with past alumni, many of which stay in touch and even return to work for the academies in some capacity.
- Enabling our students to mature in a safe and caring environment. We pride ourselves on developing students with a sense of moral purpose, with respect for themselves, others and the world we live in.

- Offering leadership opportunities, co-curricular activities and enrichment experiences alongside high quality academic and vocational courses which are tailored to the goals and aspirations of each student.
- Working in partnership with parents and carers in a constructive and supportive way during this critical phase of education.
- The strong links that we have with local universities such as Sunderland, Durham, Newcastle and Leeds as well as a very high success rate in sending students to Russell Group universities.

2.2 Specific objectives are:

- Develop a clear evidenced-based strategic vision for sixth form provision.
- To drive relentless ambition for the students served by our joint sixth form
- To monitor and review progress against agreed strategic goals and to refresh the vision and goals periodically and as necessary
- Establish a central sixth form specific Key Stage 5 teaching and learning collaborative across two sites.
- Establish a central post-16 careers offer.
- Develop systematic, joined-up approaches to student wider skill development.
- Establish a clear role and remit for the Sixth form Monitoring Group to enable emerging or existing operational sixth form challenges to be explored at a strategic level in a timely way
- Ensure the Financial stability of the Sixth form

3 Partnership activities

3.1 Activities to be delivered by the partnership are:

- To meet regularly to review progress towards shared strategic goals
- To represent associated governing body's interests to the partnership

3.2 The initial timeframe for partnership activities will be indefinite, commencing in the academic year 2023/2024.

3.3 Activities will be reviewed annually to ensure that they are being delivered as agreed, and that they are having the intended impact.

4 Monitoring Group

Role

The role of the St. Aidan's and St. Anthony's Sixth Form Monitoring Group is to support the monitoring of the Implementation Plan for Key Stage 5 and provide updates and recommendations as necessary to the Local Governing Committees (LGCs) of St. Aidan's Catholic Academy and St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy.

The Monitoring Group, comprising key stakeholders from both schools supported by an independent chair and adviser, will work collaboratively, to support the drive for improvement across the shared sixth form.

The Monitoring Group will monitor progress on the continued delivery of the Implementation Plan and will drive improvement activity to achieve the meaningful change required to raise standards, as identified in the independent review of the sixth form undertaken in November 2022.

The Monitoring Group will meet every half term.

The strategic focus of the Monitoring Group will be complemented by a wider stakeholder network, including meetings between the two Headteachers and CEO of BCCET; reports to the Standards Committee of Directors as required; and half termly meetings of the LGCs at both schools.

Remit

The Monitoring Group will:

- Monitor and evaluate delivery of the Implementation Plan within the context of the Ofsted framework
- Agree key priorities and delivery milestones for the next phase of delivery of the Implementation Plan.
- Provide updates and make recommendations for any decisions needed to the LGCs at both schools.
- The Monitoring Group is not a legal entity and does not have any decision-making powers delegated by the Trust's Board of Directors.

5 Impact evaluation

5.1 Evaluation of progress towards agreed strategic goals will be completed via regular meetings, sharing of quality assurance (both internal and external) and through a strategic implementation plan which is routinely reviewed.

5.2 Senior leaders from both academies will present this data and be responsible for actioning any outcomes.

6 Designated partnership leads

6.1 Each partner will appoint a senior member of staff to lead on the work of the partnership.

6.2 The designated lead member of staff for each partner will:

6.2.1 Mr Glenn Sanderson

6.2.2 Mrs Marie Lanaghan

6.3 Reporting will be completed through partnership meeting notes and actions.

7 Partnership governance and oversight

7.1 The partnership will have representation from both governing bodies, including but not limited to, the chair of each governing body.

7.2 Actions identified by the partnership will be integrated into both academy's strategic development plans.

8 Financial contributions

Each school will make a contribution to the Sixth Form in respect of:

- Premises and occupational costs
- Staffing costs (teaching and support staff)
- Examination fees

On an annual basis, there will be an assessment as to the value of any financial contribution required to be made from one academy to another to ensure a fair share of income/expenditure linked to the Sixth Form.

9 Disclaimer

9.1 It should be noted that by signing this document or by participating in the [name of partnership], the partners are not committing to legally binding obligations. It is intended that the partners remain independent of each other and that their collaboration and use of the term 'partner' does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

Signed on behalf of *[partner A]*

..... Date

[NAME, POSITION]

Signed on behalf of *[partner B]*

..... Date

[NAME, POSITION]

Signed on behalf of *[partner C]*

..... Date

[NAME, POSITION]