

# Achieve and Learn Trust Newsletter

## Issue Two: March 2026



### **Welcome to the Easter edition of our Trust newsletter!**

The latest from the Achieve and Learn Trust! A trust of 250 staff and 2000 students all working together to ensure the best educational provision!



The Easter break is upon us and we can celebrate a term of great student and staff successes across our schools. Hard work, determination and resilience have certainly paid off!

### **Trust Initiatives: Supporting Staff through the Menopause**

This term, following the launch of our **Menopause Guidance for Schools**, we have continued our collaboration with Manchester Mind to run sessions in school for staff.

This term saw after-school sessions in mindfulness and relaxation, where to get support if you're going through the menopause or you live with someone who is, and also specific training for Senior Leaders on ways in which they can support staff. All sessions were held at both schools and were really well attended. We provided hand-held fans, herbal teas, lavender oils, sleep masks and quiet spaces for all staff who wanted them and each of our schools will continue to provide these as required.

The wellbeing of our staff is really important to us; we listen and will always make every effort to improve what we offer.



## **Summary of the 2026 Education White Paper and Implications for Trusts**

The long-awaited arrival of the Government's White Paper has been welcomed, however it is not without its challenges for schools and academies if everything in it goes ahead. The consultation window is still open if you would like to share your thoughts.

The 2026 White Paper, **“Every Child Achieving and Thriving”**, sets out a ten-year plan to broaden education, strengthen inclusion and rebuild services around schools. Key commitments include:

1. A broader vision for childhood through expanded services such as Best Start Family Hubs, mental health support teams, free primary breakfast clubs and investment in youth provision.
2. Curriculum and assessment reform, including a refreshed national curriculum from 2028 and updated GCSEs from 2029, emphasising literacy, numeracy, oracy, financial literacy, digital literacy and media literacy.
3. A major SEND system overhaul with a new Universal → Targeted → Specialist model, digital Individual Support Plans, expanded SEND places and new National Inclusion Standards.
4. Attendance and behaviour measures targeting 94%+ attendance by 2028/29, mobile phone - free environments and strengthened parental engagement.
5. Workforce development through recruitment of 6,500 teachers, expanded SEND CPD, improved maternity pay and support for flexible working and workload reduction.
6. School system reform that places multi-academy trusts (MATs) at the centre, with no compulsion or deadline but clear expectation that all schools will join or form a trust. Local authorities may establish their own trusts.

### ***Implications for Trusts***

1. Trusts are positioned as the default delivery model for the education system, likely increasing voluntary school conversions and MAT growth.
2. New Trust Standards and future trust - level inspections will raise expectations around inclusion, governance, financial transparency and executive pay.
3. MATs must prepare for the 2028 curriculum reforms and potential Progress 8 changes, requiring coordinated curriculum planning, enrichment entitlements and investment in teacher skills.
4. SEND reforms will require strengthened central SEND expertise, compliance with

new standards and readiness for expanded SEND obligations.

5. Workforce reforms will affect recruitment, HR strategy, budgets and wellbeing policies across trusts.

6. Attendance and behaviour expectations will require consistent trust-wide systems for monitoring, early intervention and parental engagement.

7. Trusts will need to demonstrate deeper collaboration with health, family hubs, youth services and community organisations as part of a broader accountability landscape.

Achieve and Learn Trust, as you know, is having great success in supporting the improvement of its schools; it has always been our intention however, to grow our Trust to include other local Primary and Secondary schools to increase the best practice shared, thus offering even more support to Headteachers. This term we have contacted Stand Alone Trusts and other schools to let them know about all we offer.

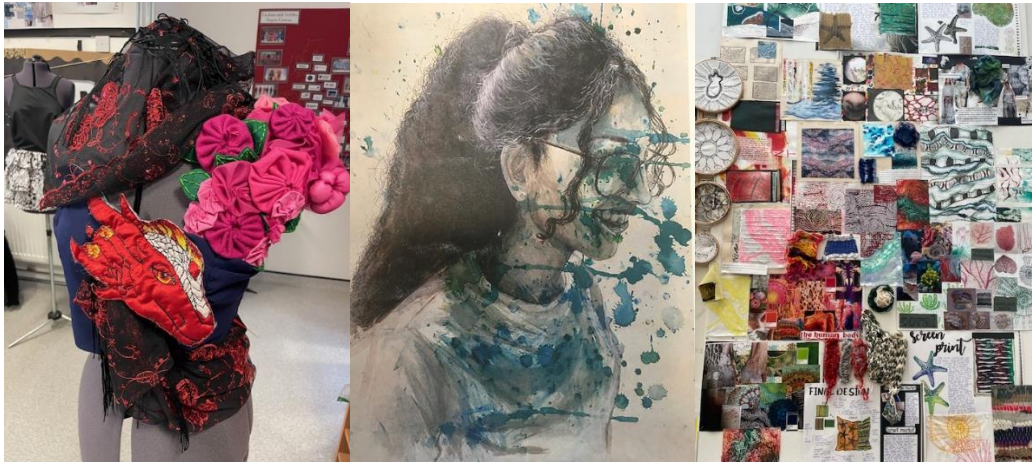
What are your thoughts around the Estates and Compliance section of the White Paper? These are big shifts in the way school operate, for all the right reasons. Achieve and Learn Trust can help!

### ***Estates & Compliance: Key Points from the White Paper***

- Shift to proactive, risk-based estate management, prioritising condition, safety and resilience.
- Stronger statutory compliance expectations: structural integrity, fire safety, asbestos and reliable data.
- 10-year national renewal plan with major capital investment to manage, improve, renew and rebuild estates.
- Focus on safe, suitable, sustainable, climate-resilient buildings sized for need, including SEND.
- Sustainability embedded into compliance: energy efficiency, carbon reduction, lifecycle planning.
- Clearer accountability for responsible bodies with stronger governance and oversight.

**We are very excited about the future help we can give to other local schools!**

## News from our schools



### Altrincham College embodies our Trust Values

The Achieve and Learn Trust is very grateful for our hugely supportive families who ensure their child attends school every day, thus maximising their education. Attendance at Altrincham College remains consistently at or above national percentages and that is the key to results improving at KS4 and KS5 year on year. The forensic attention to detail by staff at the school ensures each child is treated as an individual, each absence is looked at individually and support put in place wherever needed.

Families can work with us further as we aim to meet the Government's 94% minimum attendance rate for every young person. There are so many activities for students to get involved in at both AALT schools, that once they're in, they make new friends, experience new learning and extend their skills making them more employable.

One AC student told me:

*"I'd been off school for a while and wanted to come back but was very anxious about it. The staff at school reached out and helped me cope with all that. I'm really glad they did, because I love coming to school now and have even been selected for a sports team!" (KS3 student)*

### Reddish Vale High School embodies our Trust values

Last week saw a hugely successful Ofsted Monitoring Visit of RVHS, with HMI Mike Pennington ending the inspection saying "Very well done!" to staff, governors, trustees and members of their final feedback.

Strong support for the school remains in place. Staff have worked tirelessly to improve provision for SEND students, attendance has improved year on year, term on term; leadership and management at every level in the school has gone from

strength to strength in a short period of time. This is transformational change which we are celebrating!

Inspectors spoke with a broad section of the student body over the two days they were in school. Our students told us afterwards:

*"Inspectors were nice. They asked us about our learning and how teachers helped us learn better. We told them how much better our school had become over the last two years." (KS4 student)*

*"Inspectors looked in our books and asked us questions about our work. They watched our lessons and asked about the support I was getting in class; I'm really happy with the support I'm getting." (KS3 student)*



### **Working at Achieve and Learn Trust**

We are about to advertise a new central post at AALT: **Director of People**. This is an HR Manager position with additional oversight of PR and Comms, so if you know of anyone who might have the knowledge and skills we are looking for, please direct them to our Trust website or any of our school websites!

I would like to wish you a very happy Easter and hope you enjoy a relaxing break with family and friends!

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to us.

Kim Earle  
Chief Executive Officer