

# The Northern Education Associate Organisation Network

## Memorandum of Understanding

### Associate Schools, Academies and International Partnerships

The Northern Education Trust believes that it is an important part of its role to collaborate with other schools and academies in the north in order to promote the economic regeneration of the region through promoting improved educational outcomes for young people. We believe that in reaching out for the highest international standards in schools it is vital to share thinking and to be prepared to learn from others. To this end we welcome the opportunity to create partnerships that promote the mutual interests of academies, academy chains, and schools, alongside organisations that have a vested interest in improving education for you people including business, community and charitable enterprises, higher and further education.

One way of achieving this is by encouraging schools, academies, academy chains, business and other enterprises working in the region to become Associate Partners in order to be able to share expertise, knowledge and experience. We also believe that knowledge, research and sharing of information are central to regional growth and that the development of international partnerships should be a part of our ambition. If we are to become amongst the best we must search out the best so that we can learn.

### Dialogue and exchange

We are pleased to consider schools and academies becoming Associate organisations if they are prepared to participate and be involved in:

**Sharing expertise:** offering expertise and knowledge in pedagogy, leadership, governance, or other aspects of school development

**Staff exchange:** development of staff through exchange or secondment to other schools including those with expertise in learning, research, subject specialism, leadership or training /coaching skills

**Governor development:** promotion of governor development through recruitment from business organisations and enterprises with joint training and programmes of exchange visits

**Building networks:** engage in dialogue through partnerships and projects and by exploiting the potential of building online resources and services that enable students and staff to become independent learners

**Reflect and contribute:** developing a new understanding of contemporary education issues for schools and academies through research, dialogue, symposia and conferences

**Support to regeneration:** development of collaboration with regional partners in business, industry, local authorities and with higher and further education.

**Building design:** development of collaboration with design and architectural partners in the creation of modern and effective learning environments

## **Associate Status Obligations**

### **for Schools and Academies**

For a school or academy to become an Associate organisation, whether large or small, the Trust expects that a prime motive will be a desire to reach or to maintain 'outstanding' standards. No matter the starting point, on joining as an Associate member the Trustees will need to be assured of the academy's or school's commitment to rapidly improve its standards of teaching, learning and leadership. Governors will therefore be committed to the challenge.

There are no charges made for Associate status. There are obligations. These include:

- Completion of an annual monitoring analysis of progress in moving toward or maintaining 'outstanding' status.
- Participation in aspects of the Trust's work in promoting:
  - sharing of expertise and practice
  - staff exchange
  - governor development
  - building networks
  - reflect and contribute
  - support to regeneration
- Willingness to assist Northern Education Trust shape the agenda for change through dialogue and good communication
- Nomination of a senior leader to be the organising interface with the Trust and with delegated authority to act on behalf of a school, company or organisation
- Championing Northern Education Trust's approach toward business and enterprise engagement

### **for Business, Enterprise and Interested Organisations**

For a business, education provider, voluntary organisation or another Academy Trust to become an Associate organisation the Trust expects that the prime motive will be a desire to contribute to regeneration activity through support to the educational development of young people in schools and academies. No matter the size or wealth of an organisation the Trustees will need to be assured of the organisation's commitment to demonstrating

support to raising standards of leadership and management, governance, learning, or teaching in a school.

There are no charges made for Associate status. There are obligations:

- Completion of an annual monitoring analysis of the contribution made to the Northern Education Network of Schools and Academies
- Participation in aspects of the Trust's work in promoting:
  - sharing of expertise and practice
  - staff exchange
  - governor development
  - building networks
  - reflect and contribute
  - support to regeneration
- Willingness to assist Northern Education Trust shape the agenda for change and improvement through dialogue and good communication
- Nomination of a senior leader to be the organising interface with the Trust and with delegated authority to act on behalf of a company or organisation
- Engagement in at least one major event organised by the Northern Education Trust each year
- Promotion of staff willing to become governors in the Associate Network of Schools and Academies
- Championing Northern Education Trust approach toward business and enterprise engagement with schools and academies.