



## **Annual Report**

Academic Year 2024/ 2025

*Responsibility... Authority... Accountability*



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# Welcome



Intentionally inclusive

Welcome to the first Annual Report outlining our achievements for the academic year 2024/25.

It has been a busy and successful year for the trust and it is a great pleasure and privilege to write to you as the Trust Leader for Four Rivers Family of Schools.

I hope that you find the report helpful and that you will join me in thanking the fantastic teams associated with each of our schools who have contributed to a very successful year.

I have had the pleasure of spending time with learners, staff and governors in all of our schools and have seen and heard at first hand all the great work to ensure the very best outcomes for our learners.

## 4 Primary Schools

2 Mainstream Schools

2 Special Schools

Stockport LA 1034 pupils

Partner 335 employees

7 local partner schools

**Established**

**September 2024**

*"Four Rivers Trust is a homegrown Multi Academy Trust, built on over 20 years of collaboration between schools in Stockport. Unlike MATs formed through external influence, we made the conscious decision to come together; rooted in shared values, a deep sense of responsibility and a belief in delivering the best possible outcomes for our learners."*

*Much like four rivers flowing towards a shared destination, our schools each have their own distinct identity, yet are united by a common purpose. Each school brings its own strengths, experiences and expertise, creating a rich and diverse learning community where individuality is not just preserved but celebrated.*

*Walking into any of our schools, you'll find an environment shaped by its community, values and ethos, ensuring that no two schools feel the same. The Trust is there to support and empower, not to impose uniformity."*



Jacqui Ames  
Trust Leader



# Board Overview



Intentionally inclusive



Our Trust is made up of five Members

- Prof. Peter Brandon OBE
- Simon Elms
- Cllr Dean Fitzpatrick
- Keeley Marshall
- Martin McKay- Smith MBE

Eight Trust Board Directors

- Carolyn Garner (Chair)
- Karen Southwick (Vice Chair)
- Anna Roche (Chair - A&I Committee/ Well being)
- Helen Platt (F,R&A Committee)
- Pam Childs (Standards)
- Eloise Scroggie (Safeguarding)
- Charlie Chilton (Community Partnerships)
- Cllr Will Dawson (Estates and Growth)

## About Us

The Trust Board is responsible for the three core governance functions set out in the DfE's Governance Handbook:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

## Our Mission

We are all non executive in our role but take the responsibility and commitment very seriously. We have links with all four schools and have been instrumental in the design of the vision and philosophy of our Trust.

We believe that all learners should have the opportunity to learn in a local school and through an experience that is inclusive and purposeful.

Carolyn Garner

Chair of the Board of Trustees



*"Our approach is guided by three key principles: **Responsibility**, **Accountability** and **Authority**.*

*Like the rivers that define our name, these principles guide our journey, ensuring that we remain committed to those we serve.*

*We take responsibility for our schools, our students and your local community. We hold ourselves accountable to deliver the best education and support possible.*

*We believe we have the authority to make the right decisions - because we are doing things for the right reasons."*





# Our Schools



*Intentionally inclusive*

## Meet Our Family of Schools

In September 2024 Dial Park Primary, Norbury Hall Primary and Oakgrove School formed the Four Rivers Family of Schools. Due to circumstances beyond our control we were delayed in bringing Lisburne School on board until January 2025.

All four schools equally contributed to and designed the vision and philosophy of the trust together.

### Dial Park Primary School

**Headteacher** James Clark

James also works as Director for Curriculum, Teaching and Learning across the trust and with partner schools to further promote excellence in teaching and learning for all our children.

Ofsted Rated Good

Number of Pupils Aged 2 - 11 315

Dial Park Primary is a mainstream school based in Offerton, Stockport. The school offers a values based curriculum that embeds essential knowledge for all through a cohesive curriculum offer. The Early Years provision has been recognised as a leading provision and the school is a popular choice with families locally.

Dial Park is a lead Forest School practitioner and uses this philosophy, coupled with the values of the schools to offer an inclusive learning experience for all.

From September 2025 Dial Park will be offering a new resourced provision called The Quay that will initially support learners with identified social and communication needs.



### Results at a Glance- Meeting the Expected Standard

Reception Good Level of Development 58%

Year 1 Phonic Screen 53%

End of Key Stage 2 Read, Write, Maths Combined 59%

For a more detailed breakdown of results across the school please refer to the school's data information via the school website.



*Excellence in Leadership*



*Excellence in Early Years*



*Excellence in Outdoor Education*



*Inclusive and Restorative Practice*

# Our Schools



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### Lisburne School

**Headteacher** Samantha Benson

Sam also works as Director for Learning, Complex Needs across the trust and with partner schools to further promote excellence in teaching and learning for all our children.

Ofsted Rated Outstanding

Number of Pupils Aged 4 - 11 218

Lisburne School is an oversubscribed primary school of 218 pupils based in Offerton, Stockport with a range of complex learning needs. The school provides quality inclusive education for all pupils enabling learners to access the full range of National Curriculum subjects in a safe, caring environment where all achievement is valued and celebrated. Individual differences are acknowledged and pupils have access to stimulating, challenging and varied experiences, which promote communication, self-esteem, responsibility and independence.

### Results at a Glance- Meeting the Expected Standard

As a special school setting the children have a range of complex needs that usually impacts on the ability to take the formal statutory assessments applied to mainstream settings.

The number of children taking the assessments this year fall below that to present a useful statistic.

Lisburne learners consistently achieve well and a significant number of learners meet or exceed their personal progress targets.

For a more detailed breakdown of results across the school please refer to the school's data information via the school website.



*Inclusive and Delegated Leadership*



*Relational Approaches*



*Exemplary Restorative Practice*



*Excellence in Inclusive Practice*



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### Norbury Hall Primary School

**Headteacher** Becky Wood

Ofsted Rated Good

Number of Pupils Aged 3 - 11 460

Norbury Hall Primary is an oversubscribed mainstream school in Hazel Grove, Stockport. The school offers an opportunity to build strong connections with families, ensuring learners are supported and nurtured throughout their academic career. The school promotes a unique curriculum offer known as Quest that promotes experiential learning through a vibrant and broad curriculum offer. The school excels in promoting reading for pleasure and offers a rich outdoor learning experience to complement the wider learning offer.

#### Results at a Glance- Meeting the Expected Standard

Reception Good Level of Development 82%

Year 1 Phonic Screen 98%

End of Key Stage 2 Read, Write , Maths Combined 74%

For a more detailed breakdown of results across the school please refer to the school's data information via the school website.



*Whole Child Approach*



*Customised Curriculum Offer - Quest*



*Excellence in Inclusive Practice*



*Excellence in Development and Training*

# Our Schools



*Intentionally inclusive*

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### Oakgrove School

**Headteacher** Rob Metcalfe

Rob also works as Director for Learning, Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs across the trust and with partner schools to further promote excellence in teaching and learning for all our children.

Ofsted Rated Good

Number of Pupils Aged 5 - 11 41

Oakgrove School is a small, oversubscribed primary school in Heald Green, Stockport for learners with social, emotional and mental health needs. The school offers a safe, nurturing environment with a primary focus on developing emotional resilience, and increase the ability to accept challenge and re-engage with learning opportunities.

The school offers a curriculum based on values and centred around restorative practice and promotes the opportunities for learners to re-establish trust in school and the relationships within it.

#### Results at a Glance- Meeting the Expected Standard

As a special school setting the children have a range of complex needs that usually impacts on the ability to take the formal statutory assessments applied to mainstream settings.

The number of children taking the assessments this year fall below that to present a useful statistic.

Oakgrove learners consistently achieve well and a significant number of learners meet or exceed their personal progress targets.

For a more detailed breakdown of results across the school please refer to the school's data information via the school website.



*Systems Driven Leadership*

*Resilience Building Practice*

*Excellence in Trust and Relationships*

*Excellence in Understanding Behaviours*



# Our Partnerships



*Intentionally inclusive*

## Collaboration across the Trust

- Shared CPD
  - Networking Opportunities
  - Shared staff expertise across schools
  - Central staff deployed to support learners
  - Learners working in partnership across school settings
- 

## Collaboration with Stockport Local Authority

- Support in growth of SEND places in special settings
  - Working with Family Hub to promote a new offer on the Dial Park Campus
  - Opening of new resourced provision at DP
  - Staff deployed to support AP work in schools
  - Staff deployed for external moderation in schools
- 

## Outreach to Stockport Schools

- Additional support for 3 local maintained schools
  - CPD for Leaders
  - Outreach and advice around SEND support
- 

## Partnerships beyond Stockport

- New partnership with London schools
- University action research model with Mel Ainscow
- Considering how European partners may lead the way in inclusive practice

# Our Strategic Plan



*Intentionally inclusive*

## Our Five Priorities 2024-2028

### Priority 1

Maintain standards and raise achievement for all learners across the trust

### Priority 2

To offer a professional development policy and plan that is high quality and impacts directly on the quality of education across the trust

### Priority 3

To extend the offer of SEND places to learners in Stockport

### Priority 4

To build a central team that enables the trust to work self sufficiently

### Priority 5

To extend the trust to a model of aged 2 to 18 upholding the principles of inclusion in every setting

## Plans for Partnerships and Growth

- Outreach and school improvement support for schools beyond the trust
- Wraparound provision and childcare support for a joining academy initially
- Extending the offer of Nursery provision
- Partnership work with the LA re The Family Hub and SEND support services
- Holiday provision for working parents across the Trust



Year 1 September 2024 - 2025	Four Schools within the Trust	Additional Places for SEND agreed at the new Lisburne Site from January 2025
Year 2 September 2025 - September 2026	High Lane to join from Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> Five Schools in the Trust Work with Partner Schools	Expansion plans agreed for an extra class at Oakgrove Extra places at Lisburne Resource Provision at Dial Park Outreach and SEND offer introduced at The Quay
Year 3 September 2026 - September 2027	Consolidation of Trust Schools Prepare to expand to welcome new school(s) with inclusive practice to the Trust	Embed additional places and extend through satellite provision.
Year 4 September 2027 - September 2028	Grow to between six and 8 schools within the Trust	

# Our Timeline



*Intentionally inclusive*

## ... and then there were five

We are delighted to welcome High Lane Primary to the trust from September 2025. The school has a long term partnership with schools within the trust and has engaged in joint CPD and professional planning sessions with the trust schools in the last academic year.

### High Lane Primary School



#### **Headteacher Alison Humphries**

Ofsted Rated Good

Number of Pupils Aged 3 - 11 180

High Lane Primary School is a one form entry mainstream school based in High Lane on the border of Stockport and High Peak, Derbyshire. The school is a popular choice with families and caters for learners from nursery to year six. The school proudly offers learners a caring and friendly environment, boasting a truly inclusive offer centred around being happy. The school promotes the highest standards of achievement for all pupils in order to prepare them for a successful life in the modern world.



*Collegiate Team Philosophy*

*Exemplary Inclusive Practice*

*Ambassadors of the Arts in Schools*

*Systems Driven Leadership*



# Looking Forward

We feel that we have achieved lots in our first year and have been fortunate to grow as a Trust in a variety of ways.

We continue to value our partnership with the Local Authority and have enjoyed navigating the pathway between being a partner school for schools in other trusts as well as working with many colleagues in maintained schools.

We believe that there is room for all trusts, all partnerships and all contexts of schools and in the changing climate of education policy we are excited to understand more about the reforms coming into our settings.

We are very much looking forward to building new partnerships within the Four Rivers Family, to continue to share good practice and to improve outcomes for all of our learners even more.

We are proud to work with such a committed and dedicated team and we look forward to getting to know the communities of our schools even more in the coming year.

## September 2025 - September 2026

### **Dial Park Primary School**

Open Education Resourced Provision

- Cohort 1 Autumn 2025
- Cohort 2 Spring 2026
- Cohort 3 Summer 2026

Outreach support from September

### **Lisburne School**

Commence first full academic year in the new site

Outreach support from September

### **Norbury Hall Primary School**

Becky Wood takes up the permanent position of Headteacher

Continued partnership work with LA

### **Oakgrove School**

Expansion of places offered

- Additional class added Autumn 2025

Outreach support from September





# Looking Forward

We have prioritised some specific programmes to enhance our teaching and learning, further enrich our curriculum offer and refine our inclusive practice.

Our primary workstreams will be centred around:

- Using action research in partnership with Prof. Mel Ainscow to identify how learning and teaching can be fully inclusive as a universal offer for all
- Recognising and refining the curriculum offer in all of our schools to ensure success for all
- Embracing social and communication needs as a universal offer in all our schools
- Considering how behaviour is communicating need within our schools and how we address this

We are keen to promote collaborative partnerships between the schools for our children. Initially, we will focus on the following opportunities:

- Dance Festival working with The Royal Ballet 'Create Dance Day'
- Sports fixtures and competitions
- Virtual and face to face 'School Linking' programme
- School Council Conference

We are really excited about the opportunities for next year.

*"Our first year working as Four Rivers Trust has meant that school improvement partnerships have been specific to our school and centred on developing our practice. It is a partnership that raises challenge but offers us support."*

Trust School Leader

*"The opportunity to work together as a group of schools, share exemplary practice and try a different approach to get better results has been great this year."*

Teacher

*"It is reassuring to know that the Trust understands and knows our philosophy and has children at the heart of all decisions made."*

Trust School Leader

*"We have the opportunity to offer fantastic learning opportunities for all children in our schools by working together. It feels really exciting!"*

Partner School Leader