

Aspirations Academies Trust

SELF-WORTH

ENGAGEMENT

PURPOSE



Our Trust

As a sponsor of primary and secondary age academies in England, the Aspirations Academies Trust (AAT) is committed to raising students' aspirations so that all young people reach their fullest potential and achieve the success they want for themselves.

The Trust benefits from QISA's (The Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations) remarkable record of more than 30 years of research and experience working with students, educators, and schools.

We believe that the term 'Aspirations' represents the ability to dream about the future while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams.

The Trust was set up in England with the vision to combine two vital elements:

- the 30 years of educational research by Dr. Russ Quaglia on student aspirations
- effective and innovative school improvement techniques

in order to create truly outstanding schools that would fully prepare students to succeed in this exciting world.

Guiding Principles

Central to the philosophy of the Aspirations Academies Trust is the innovative Aspirations Framework developed by the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations (QISA). The Framework outlines the belief that, for all students to have high Aspirations, three Guiding Principles must be present. They are:

- **Self-Worth**
- **Engagement**
- **Purpose**

These Guiding Principles direct the development of educational experiences from the individual classroom to the entire school building.



Conditions

In turn, The three Guiding Principles are lived out through our eight Conditions. These Conditions emphasise relationships, active and engaging teaching and learning, and a sense of responsibility over one's own aims and goals. They are:

- **Belonging**
- **Heroes**
- **Sense of accomplishment**
- **Fun and excitement**
- **Curiosity and creativity**
- **Spirit of adventure**
- **Self-Worth**
- **Leadership and responsibility**
- **Confidence to take action**

Students who have high aspirations believe in themselves. They are meaningfully engaged in their learning and the life of the school. They work with intention toward their goals.

Our Aspirations Academies have a commitment to make certain that all young people achieve their fullest academic potential and become responsible citizens.

To achieve this goal, we are dedicated to promoting and putting into practice the three Guiding Principles and the eight Conditions that foster student aspirations.

Each Academy strives to ensure that all students have the opportunity to discover and appreciate their endless promise for a successful future.

The Trust considers that its beliefs and principles are applicable and effective with students from the ages of three through to 18.

Each stage of a child's education:

- **Pre-school**
- **Primary**
- **Secondary**

is extremely important and should, where possible, be coherent across the phases of education in the practice of developing the principles and conditions central to the beliefs and aims of the Trust.

For this reason, we support primary, secondary and, where possible, all through academies (ages 3-18).

At whatever age a child joins an Aspirations Academy, whether three or sixteen, the aim is to provide each individual child with the best possible life chance.

This outcome is delivered by:

- **The achievement of the highest level of qualifications**
- **The development of skills essential to success in an interconnected and highly competitive world**
- **Encouraging the highest aspirations**
- **Expecting every student to gain a place at university or enter skilled employment**



THE 8 CONDITIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The 8 Conditions That Make a Difference[®] need to be in place if students are to strive for, and fulfill, their academic, personal, and social promise.



Belonging

Feeling like you are part of a group, while knowing you are special for who you are.



Heroes

Having someone who believes in you and who is there when you need them.



Sense of Accomplishment

Being recognized for many different types of success, including hard work and being a good person.

SELF-WORTH



Fun & Excitement

Enjoying what you are doing, whether at work, school, or play.



Curiosity & Creativity

Asking "Why?" and "Why not?" about the world around you.



Spirit of Adventure

Being excited to try new things, even when you are not sure if you will be good at them.

ENGAGEMENT



Leadership & Responsibility

Making your own decisions and accepting responsibility for those choices.



Confidence to Take Action

Setting goals and taking the steps you need to reach them.

PURPOSE

Supporting
partners

PEARSON
FOUNDATION

