



# St James & Emmanuel Academy Trust



Application Pack for the post of

## Chief Executive Officer

Didsbury CE  
Primary School



West Didsbury CE  
Primary School



St Wilfrid's CE  
Primary School



St Elisabeth's CE  
Primary School





## Message from the Board of Trustees

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**T**hank you for your interest in the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the St James and Emmanuel Multi-Academy Trust. Building and expanding on a successful period of growth over the past 5 years from a single long established Church of England primary school to a trust with four schools crossing a diverse set of communities, we are looking to recruit a new CEO on the retirement of Matt Whitehead. Matt has made an enormous contribution to the provision of improved educational attainment; a transformational, supportive inclusive learning environment and a highly collaborative and capable leadership team.

To continue to develop and expand an offer which delivers excellence and the best outcomes for young people, **we are looking for an outstanding strategic leader with:**

- A track record of developing and articulating vision, values and ethos and who can inspire and empower others to achieve this
- The ability to deliver an ambitious and sustainable change programme which maintains the Trust's highly regarded educational record and meets fiscal requirements
- Robust experience of people leadership to model and further enhance collaborative and productive working across the schools in the trust underpinned by strong performance and continuous learning
- Breadth of knowledge of the current education landscape and available opportunities, and a strong network within the political, faith-based and community arenas and with other Multi-Academy Trusts
- The capability and drive to grow and develop the remit of the Trust to the wider range of CofE and Community schools in an area covering the south of Greater Manchester and adjoining districts.



## What we can offer

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- A family of schools that work closely together, including a highly successful new 'free' school
- Talented, committed and supportive leadership team
- Trustee group bringing expertise from educational and business arenas together with a range of relevant professional skills (business management, HR, H&S, change management etc) and established, strong local governance
- Thriving local communities and strong engagement with parents, churches and other local partners
- Well-established schools which are all either rated Outstanding / Good or are well on the journey towards this having joined the Trust more recently with strong evidence for the difference made through membership of the SJE MAT
- Good systems of joint practice development and exemplary teaching in many areas
- Excellent school leaders, happy to mentor and support others and strong middle management
- A strong financial position with healthy balances and a talented CFO
- A building portfolio comprising two listed buildings in a very good state of repair, a new school built 6 years ago and a 1960's school again in very good condition
- A proven track record of moving a school from a category to good
- Great ITT links and a proven record of excellent recruitment as a result
- A firm Christian foundation, rooted in our vision, on which everything else is built
- Excellent relationships with the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education, Manchester City Council, Stockport MBC and other partners





## Our journey so far

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The Trust was quite simply formed to enable greater numbers of children to access a high quality Church of England education.

Our sponsor school Didsbury CE, a highly successful single form entry primary in Didsbury, simply could not meet the demand for places each year, and families who worshipped at St James and Emmanuel were not able to secure a place for their child at their local school. As a result of this difficult situation, our plans to open a free school were conceived and the Trust was formed to ensure that Didsbury CE's sister school, West Didsbury CE – the new free school, were legally linked to one another and able to benefit from the expertise of experienced governors, trustees and teaching staff.

As a result of this success and the high standing of our lead school in the area, we were approached to sponsor other Church of England schools who had received a directive academy order from the DfE. Again our desire to see more children access a high quality, distinctive Church of England education was the driving force for our trustees and we welcomed St Wilfrid's CE and more recently St Elisabeth's CE into our Trust.

Belonging, Believing and Becoming – our vision statement is very much the driving force behind the inception and growth of our trust.

Didsbury CE Primary School, St Elisabeth's CE, St Wilfrid's CE Primary School and West Didsbury CE Primary School work together as part of the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust, a multi-academy trust, which provides excellent partnership opportunities for the pupils, parents and staff of all our Trust schools.

The Trust is currently led and managed by the Executive Headteacher, supported by Heads of School, a Chief Finance Officer and the Trust Board. The Board of Trustees oversee and monitor the work of the Trust's schools via its Executive Leadership team and each school's local governing body.

St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust creates an enthusiasm for learning that will shape children's lives and future chances. Our union allows us to be innovative, be creative and provide pupil and parent support which would be more difficult for one school alone.

We are intrinsically linked to our parishes: St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury; St Elisabeth's, Reddish and St Wilfrid's, Northenden.



# Vision

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Our vision for education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust schools create an enthusiasm for learning that will shape children's lives and future chances, enabling them to grow into responsible and productive adults.

Our desire 'to grow' is also built upon our faith foundations. To 'grow' a child is a privileged calling and to nurture that girl or boy as they develop in their unique skills and aptitudes is a charge that nobody or no institution should enter into lightly.

Our Vision is encapsulated in the strapline: **Belonging, Believing** and **Becoming**. These three words sum up our mission statements and our faith foundation as Church of England schools.

## Belonging:

- to each other in mutual support, respect and trust;
- to the communities of Didsbury, Reddish and Northenden, committed to playing an active role in providing outstanding local primary schooling;
- to the Diocese of Manchester, as part of a family of 191 distinctive Church of England schools;
- to the world in which we live, caring for the whole creation regardless of race, religion or background.

## Believing:

- in our gifts and abilities, as each child is unique and valuable;
- in our potential, as each child will be challenged and nurtured;
- in our Christian faith, as each child will be guided by our church ethos and values.



## Becoming:

- responsible and productive – a force for good in society;
- engaged and pro-active – ready to change and challenge the world around us;
- aware of our vocation, with a growing sense of purpose and preference;
- well-rounded and self-aware, through an holistic and broad-based education.

## Key dates

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- Advert opens 1<sup>st</sup> September – closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Shortlisting: 29<sup>th</sup> September
- Shortlisted applicants will be informed in more detail of the interview process and expected to take an online psychometric assessment. All applicants will receive feedback on this prior to interview.
- Interviews: October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to be held at St James and Emmanuel Parish Centre

## Further information

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Find out more about our schools and the Trust at our websites:



[didsbury-pri.manchester.sch.uk](https://didsbury-pri.manchester.sch.uk)



[st-wilfridscofe.manchester.sch.uk](https://st-wilfridscofe.manchester.sch.uk)



[westdidsburyceprimary.co.uk](https://westdidsburyceprimary.co.uk)



[st-elisabeths.stockport.sch.uk](https://st-elisabeths.stockport.sch.uk)



[stjeat.co.uk](https://stjeat.co.uk)

