

The Aspirations Academies Trust

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

The Aspirations Academies Trust in England 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. Aspirations is the ability to dream about the future while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams. The Aspirations Academies Trust was set up in England with the vision to combine the thirty years of educational research by Dr. Russ Quaglia on student aspirations with effective and innovative school improvement techniques in order to create truly outstanding schools that would fully prepare students to succeed in this exciting world. Central to the philosophy of the Aspirations Academies Trust is the innovative Aspirations Framework developed by the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations (QISA) which outlines the belief that for all students to have high Aspirations, three Guiding Principles must be present: Self-Worth, Active Engagement, and Purpose. These Guiding Principles direct the development of educational experiences from the individual classroom to the entire school building. The Three Guiding Principles, in turn, are lived out through 8 Conditions that emphasise relationships, active and engaging teaching and learning, and a sense of responsibility over one's own aims and goals. The 8 Conditions are: Belonging, Heroes, Sense of Accomplishment, Fun & Excitement, Curiosity & Creativity, Spirit of Adventure, Leadership & Responsibility & Confidence to Take Action. Students who have high aspirations believe in themselves, are meaningfully engaged in their learning and the life of the school and 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 8 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 Aspirations Academies Trust considers that its beliefs and principles are applicable and effective with students from age 3 to 18. Each stage of a child's education is extremely important pre-school, primary and secondary 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 Aspirations Academies Trust. For this reason, we support primary, secondary and, where possible, all through (Ages 3-18) academies.

At whatever stage a child joins an Aspirations Academy, whether it is at the age of three or sixteen, the aim is to provide each individual child with the best possible life chance. This is done through the achievement of the highest level of qualifications, the development of skills essential to success in an interconnected and highly competitive world, as well as encouraging the highest aspirations, expecting every student to gain a place at university or enter skilled employment.

Continuous Professional Development

We offer unique and bespoke training for staff at all levels. This includes Senior Leadership Training, Aspirations Training - Level 1 & 2, Polishing Pedagogy, Coaching and Mentoring. Staff will be supported to develop a positive orientation to professional learning as reflective practitioners and will be empowered to take ownership and responsibility for their professional learning and development.

We strive to embed the voice of students (for example, through My Voice, iKnow My Class Surveys and student voice and leadership developments) and the active engagement of students in the process of CPD and staff professional learning.

Promoting Aspirations Project

CPD in AAT Academies will have a research orientation. All staff will be expected to engage annually in a Promoting Aspirations Project and make use of research reports to inform their practice. The Promoting Aspirations Project is undertaken over the course of an academic year. Staff can conduct their Promoting Aspirations Projects alone or in collaboration with a small group of colleagues from within their academy or across Aspirations Academies. Innovation Awards will be given to the best projects and they will be shared with other staff at the yearly forum when all staff from all academies come together for an exciting event.

Aspirations Framework

