Font Alliance

Memorandum of understanding

1 September 2024

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Signed on behalf of Cambo First School

Signed on behalf of Longhorsley St Helen's C of E First School

Signed on behalf of Morpeth First School

Signed of behalf of Ponteland Community Primary School

Signed on behalf of Rothbury First School

Signed on behalf of Stannington First School

Signed on behalf of Tritlington C of E First School

Signed on behalf of Whalton C of E Aided Primary School

1 Background

1.1 Cambo First School, Longhorsley St Helen's C of E First School, Morpeth First School, Ponteland Community Primary School, Rothbury First School, Stannington First School, Tritlington C of E First School and Whalton C of E Aided Primary School, working alongside the Northumberland Local Authority School Improvement Team, have formed the Font Alliance. The schools and local authority commit to working together more closely to improve outcomes for pupils.

1.2 It is an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of all schools involved.

1.3 The fracturing of existing school partnerships means that opportunities to work with like-minded colleagues are not as prevalent as previously. The alliance model aims to harness the resources and expertise of the schools within each alliance, supported by a central team at the local authority.

1.4 The initial time frame for partnership activities will be 3 years, commencing in the academic year 2024/2025. Schools may leave the alliance at any point.

1.5 Should other schools wish to join the alliance this will be with the express agreement of the headteachers in the alliance.

2 Alliance Priorities

2.1 Each school will share their priorities for the forthcoming academic year. A training plan for the alliance will be built around these priorities.

2.2 Each school will share their strengths. This will help identify which schools/staff may be able to lead training/support in specific areas

2.3 Alliance headteachers will agree, in conjunction with the Local Authority School Improvement Team, what training is to be provided across the academic year.

3 Alliance aims and objectives

3.1 The overarching aim of this alliance is to raise attainment and achievement of each pupil in each school through greater collaboration between staff.

3.2 Specific objectives are:

3.2.1 to improve the quality of teaching by supporting curriculum design and delivery

3.2.2 to support school staff to collaborate more closely on the mechanics of teaching and learning

3.2.3 to support school staff to collaborate more closely on addressing issues specific to their role/responsibilities

3.2.4 to provide opportunities for schools in the alliance to benefit from potential cost savings through bulk purchasing

3.2.5 to prioritise the activities that bring the biggest impact

4 Alliance activities

4.1 Activities to be delivered by the alliance are:

4.1.1 More regular collaboration of all school staff

4.1.2 Support for other alliance schools through closer working relationships

4.3 Activities will be reviewed every term to ensure that they are proving beneficial to all schools in the alliance, and that they are having the intended impact.

5 Monitoring

5.1 All partners commit to ongoing monitoring of whether alliance activities are proving beneficial, with the aim of ensuring accountability and improved performance against the benchmarks the alliance have set.

5.2 The School Improvement Team at Northumberland County Council will co-ordinate the monitoring and report back to teams at the local authority and governing boards as appropriate.

6 Impact evaluation

6.1 Evaluation will be through formal and informal feedback from staff in each school

6.2 The member of the School Improvement Team assigned to the alliance will co-ordinate and report upon the impact

7 Designated Alliance leads

7.1 The local authority will appoint a member of the School Improvement Team to support the work of the alliance.

7.2 That member of staff will:

7.2.1 Communicate with headteachers regularly so that their views, and the views of their staff are listened to

7.2.2 Support the arrangements of alliance events

7.3 That member of staff will feedback to the wider School Improvement Team to support the progress of other alliances

8 Alliance oversight

8.1 Informal governance will be undertaken by the headteachers in each school in the alliance

8.1.1 Those responsible for informal governance will be responsible for ensuring that the alliance is providing mutual benefit for all schools

8.1.2 Headteachers should report to governors on the progress of the alliance at each full governing board meeting

8.2 The alliance should be referenced in school development plans so that areas where potential impact is expected are clearly identified.

9 Financial contributions

9.1 Each alliance school will continue to buy the school improvement SLA from the local authority each year that they are part of the alliance

9.2 There are no other financial commitments directly related to the alliance

10 Disclaimer

10.1 It should be noted that by signing this document or by participating in the Font Alliance the schools are not committing to legally binding obligations. It is intended that the schools remain independent of each other and that their collaboration and use of the term ‘alliance’ does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

Signed on behalf of Cambo First School

. Date …5/6/24

[Name] PAULA CUMMINGS

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Longhorsley St Helen's C of E First School

Date 30/8/24

Nichola Brannen

Executive Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Morpeth First School

……..... Date …….

[Name]

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Ponteland Community Primary School

……..... Date …….

[Name]

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Rothbury First School

Date 11.07.24

Cheryl Auld & Helen Duffield

Headteachers

Signed on behalf of Stannington First School

Date: 5th June 2024



Alexandra Palmer: Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Tritlington C of E First School

……..... Date …….

[Name]

Headteacher

Signed on behalf of Whalton C of E Aided Primary School

Date 30/8/24

Nichola Brannen

Executive Headteacher