

Newsletter




ONE Trust, One Vision, Ambition for All

A message from the CEO

We have come to the end of what has been another very eventful year as the ONE Trust. With our pupil events, network groups and training offer, as well as two Ofsted inspections, we have certainly packed a great deal into one academic year!



This summer, we have also had some of the best pupil attainment results across our schools in the Trust, with the majority of our schools realising data at or above that expected nationally for children at the end of Key Stage Two. It is important to note that many of our schools had results which were well above those nationally and this is a great testament to the work of our schools, our leaders, our staff, governors, and of course the support that they receive from their families at home. This again means that we are putting our shared vision into practice:

'To build a shared learning community in which children, young people, staff and parents discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that endures throughout their lives.'

As I reflect on our accomplishments this year, I also look forward to the exciting work of our Trust going forward into 25-26. As a strong performing trust with expert leaders and motivated staff and pupils, we can continue our journey together to ensure we build a strong, ambitious future for all our school communities.

Thank you all for your engagement and continued support - together we really can achieve more!

I look forward to seeing all of our pupils return in September, after the summer break.

Julie Stuart
Chief Executive Officer, ONE Trust



Attendance Expectations

As schools within the ONE Trust we are united in our belief that good school attendance leads to improved confidence both academically and socially and we are therefore committed to working together, and with our families, to ensure all our pupils regularly attend school.

The Department for Education has set an expectation of 96% overall attendance for all young people. As you are aware from the letter sent to you at the start of the year, the ONE Trust schools have agreed and adopted the new Newcastle City Council model policy. Please find a link to the policy [here](#). It is also available on our schools and Trust website.

We want all our children to get the best start to the new academic year when they return in September. Please work with us to support your child to come to school every day and on time. It is only by working together that we will be able to ensure we achieve the very best outcomes for each and every child in our Trust.

Year 6 post-SATs treat!

Earlier this term, we were delighted to celebrate the hard work and determination of our Year 6 pupils across the Trust with a well-deserved treat!

To mark the end of SATs, an ice cream van visited all eight of our schools over a three-day period just before the May half-term break. Thankfully, the sun was shining, and pupils (along with a few lucky staff members!) were able to enjoy a refreshing treat in the warm weather.

This small gesture was our way of saying “well done” to our Year 6 children for their fantastic effort and resilience throughout the SATs period. Their dedication and positive attitude were truly commendable, and we’re incredibly proud of the great results they achieved.

A big thank you to Bob the ice cream man for helping us bring smiles to so many faces and for making the celebration extra special!



Simonside Primary



Newburn Manor Primary



West Denton Primary



Throckley Primary

Opportunities for our pupils

Sports Competitions

As we wrap up another exciting term of school sports, we're thrilled to share some highlights from our recent inter-school competitions. It's been a year full of energy, enthusiasm, and exceptional teamwork from all our young athletes!

☀️ Summer Term – Year 5/6 Girls and Boys Football Tournament

This term, we hosted our very first football tournament for Year 5 and 6 boys and girls—and what a success it was!

Milecastle Primary School took home both the girls' and boys' trophies, continuing their schools' winning streak from our Spring term Dodgeball competition, and showing great skill and determination on the pitch.



The event was a fantastic celebration of football, with all teams showing passion, perseverance, and a great sense of fair play. We're incredibly proud of all the players who took part and made this inaugural football tournament such a memorable occasion.

👁️ Looking Ahead – Autumn Term Dodgeball for Year 3/4

We're already looking forward to kicking off the new academic year with our Year 3/4 Dodgeball Tournament, which will be hosted at Throckley Primary School in Autumn Term. We can't wait to see our younger pupils get involved, have fun, and showcase their budding sporting talents!

🙏 Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the pupils, staff, and families who have supported our sports competitions this year. Your enthusiasm and encouragement have helped make these events such a success. It's been a joy to host them, and we're excited for even more sporting fun in the year ahead.

Jessica Cowling, PE Lead at Waverley Primary School



Milecastle Primary -
Girls Football



Milecastle Primary -
Boys Football

Year 6 Careers Fair

On 18th June we held our 3rd Annual Careers Fair for all of the Year 6 children from across ONE Trust. There were 24 exhibitors from across all areas of industry, many of whom were attending for their third year. The children were keen to ask questions, find out about possible future careers, and enjoyed experiencing the variety of props and equipment available including historical artifacts, medical equipment and different uniforms.

Once again the event was lively and vibrant due to the fantastic community support we had and the enthusiasm of our ONE Trust Year 6 cohort. Our fourth event is already in the diary for Wednesday 17th June 2026 - please contact [ONE Trust central office](#) if you would like to take part.

Sarah Russell, Head Teacher at Westerhope Primary School



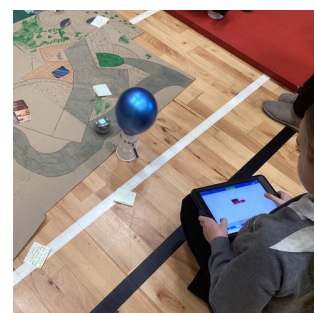
Harnessing Technology

This year, our Harnessing Technology network has been working together to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can support teaching and learning across our schools. Staff have been learning about the exciting potential of AI in education—such as personalised learning tools and time-saving classroom support—and have begun creating action plans to introduce it safely and thoughtfully from the 2025/2026 school year.

A standout moment this year was a hands-on Sphero coding event hosted by Throckley Primary School. Year 4 pupils had the chance to work with Steve Bunce from RGS, using small robotic balls to learn the basics of coding. The session was full of energy and creativity, giving children a fun and memorable introduction to programming and problem-solving.

As part of Safer Internet Day, children across our schools created their own videos to raise awareness about online scams. This project helped pupils understand how to stay safe online while also developing their digital skills and confidence in using technology creatively.

Stephen Thoburn, Computing Lead at Westerhope Primary School



ONE Trust Collaboration with Royal Grammar School

It has been another busy year of joint-activity between Royal Grammar School and the ONE Trust. The partnership between RGS and all schools in the trust has grown into an established programme of activities, benefitting students across all schools involved.

Sixth form students from RGS have loved working with children on Wednesday afternoons as part of their Voluntary Service programme. This involves sitting with children for 1-1 reading support, and has been running weekly across 7 of the ONE Trust schools this academic year. We hope that your children have benefited from the extra support: the feedback from teachers has been great, and we look forward to setting up the programme again next year. The life skills gained by RGS sixth formers through working with the younger children are invaluable, and although it runs as a Year 12 option, many of the sixth formers opt to continue into Year 13 during their study periods, due to the attachments and bonds they make with their placement schools.

The Swim Confidence Club also continues to flourish, with children from Waverley, West Denton, Milecastle and Westerhope joining us for blocks of 5-week intensive swimming support, especially aimed at children who need that extra bit of time and 1-1 input to improve their skills. A snapshot of their swimming levels is taken in week 1, and then in week 5 – some children go from non-swimmers to completing multiple lengths, which is a fantastic achievement and an invaluable life skill to take forward. We look forward to welcoming the other 4 schools in the trust for their swimming lessons next school year.

One of the highlights of the year was the Robotics event, hosted at Throckley Primary School, where 'Mr Robot' (Dr. Steve Bunce, picture below) brought 6 schools together to showcase what they had learned in his sessions at an epic Robotics event. Once again, the children never cease to amaze us with their ingenuity, problem-solving skills and sheer energy!

We hope all of your children enjoy the summer and come back refreshed and re-charged for another year of fun and collaboration next year.

John Smith, Director of Partnerships at Royal Grammar School and Trustee for the ONE Trust



Investing in our Staff

Investing in staff development is central to our Trust's success. When our teachers, leaders, and support staff are empowered to grow professionally, our schools become stronger and more effective. Confident, skilled staff have a direct impact on pupil outcomes, ensuring children are taught and supported by adults who understand how they learn best and what they need to succeed.

We're proud to offer ongoing training and development opportunities across all roles and career stages. This includes coaching, mentoring, and collaborative learning, helping staff stay up to date and inspired in their work.

Each newsletter features highlights from our subject and area network groups, which bring staff together to share expertise and strengthen curriculum delivery. These groups are making a real difference in classrooms, promoting excellence in teaching and learning across all subjects.

We look forward to sharing more of this work with you, showing how our investment in people continues to shape the success of our schools and the futures of our children.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support

We have had another successful term of SEND network meetings, with two opportunities for teachers to join together. These are proving invaluable among teachers and leaders.

Our first meeting in the summer term was attended by Katie Stone from the SEND outreach service giving us some excellent advice about referring children for dyslexia assessments. She has been into all of our schools over the last year, looking at books and discussing referrals with our teachers and it was good for us all to hear the same messages from her about how the panel review our referrals.

By popular demand we had a second visit from the Social, Emotional and Mental Health team. They did a whistle stop carousel of excellent strategies that teachers could use in the classroom and for individual children. The staff who attended had an enjoyable evening, received lots of ideas which could be implemented immediately, lots of plans for next term and left with "really full batteries".

Judith Robertson, SENDCo at Knop Law Primary School

English Network

Our English network meetings allow subject leads to discuss current provision, share examples of what is working well and work collaboratively to consider solutions to support all children in their learning.

This year we initially focused on writing across our schools where staff talked about the engaging ways writing is being taught to ensure an inclusive and progressive approach. This led to further discussions around the impact of spelling and how it is best taught in school. Leaders enjoyed the chance to share resources and strategies and were keen to share examples of work so in the final meeting we used our time to moderate samples of work from both Year 1 and Year 2.

Designated time to moderate our writing together was invaluable as were the in-depth discussions that followed. We look forward to continuing our dialogue next year as it is essential for staff to be able to learn from each other and work together for the best outcomes for our pupils.

Victoria Purdy, English Lead at Westerhope Primary School

P.E. Network

At our recent P.E. network meeting, P.E. leads from across the Trust came together to share ideas and plan how to make Physical Education and school sports more engaging and inclusive for all children.

We focused on organising whole-school events—like sports days and themed activity weeks—that encourage maximum participation. Ideas were shared on how to make these events fun and accessible for children of all abilities, celebrating effort, teamwork, and enjoyment.

We also discussed how schools are using their Sports Premium funding to have the biggest impact—whether through new equipment, staff training, or specialist coaching.

Another key topic was the School Games Mark, a national award recognising schools for their commitment to sport. We're planning a joint application as a Trust to celebrate the great work happening across our schools.

Finally, we looked at how to make transport to external events more cost-effective, so more children can enjoy representing their school in wider sporting opportunities.

Kate Dalkin, P.E. Lead at Westerhope Primary School

P.S.H.E. Network

P.S.H.E. Network Meetings are a great opportunity for P.S.H.E. subject leads to share good practice and allow members to ask questions and seek support from others in a similar role. The agendas for the meetings are decided upon as a group to make strategic use of the time to benefit everyone. Recent meetings have covered R.S.H.E. consultation updates, results from Health Related Behaviour surveys, discussions around curriculum choices and resources from Pol-Ed. This is free educational material (for all schools within the Northumbria force area) designed to develop a deep awareness of risks, citizenship and law in our young people. All resources have been quality assured by police for legal accuracy.

Moving forward, P.S.H.E. will be combined with the Personal Development and Mental Well Being Network Groups.

Emma Liddle, P.S.H.E. Lead at Throckley Primary School

Mental Wellbeing Network

This year, the Mental Wellbeing Network Group has focused on supporting staff resilience, emotional regulation, and strategies for maintaining positive mental health. The sessions have offered a safe space for open dialogue, resource sharing, and collaborative reflection, which have been well-received by participants. A key theme has been the importance of personal development, and how it contributes to overall wellbeing.

As we move forward, there are plans to merge the Mental Wellbeing group with the P.S.H.E. group, which will include involvement from a new Personal Development Lead. By aligning our efforts across these areas, we hope to provide a more streamlined and impactful approach to wellbeing and development for both staff and students.

Overall, running the group has been a positive and productive experience, with strong engagement and encouraging feedback from the staff involved, laying a solid foundation for the next phase of our work.

Sarah Dawes, Mental Health Lead at Westerhope Primary School

Music Network

ONE Trust's third music network meeting built on the foundations laid in previous sessions, with a particular focus on embedding the approaches introduced last term.

Music leads reflected on how the weekly listening spine had developed in their schools, sharing practical tips for keeping it fresh and meaningful for pupils, with one school, for example, relating each weekly song to their Word of the Week. We also revisited composition and transcription, this time zooming in on how to develop these skills across year groups.

A highlight of the meeting was the sharing of creative end-of-year musical celebration ideas – from whole-school performances to talent shows – all designed to reflect a brilliant year of music-making.

We also discussed the range of external events and competitions different schools have taken part in this academic year, sparking inspiration amongst the group and helping us begin to shape our musical calendars for next year to ensure we offer a range of exciting, meaningful music-making experiences for the children across the ONE Trust.

Rebecca Jennings, Music Specialist at Knop Law Primary School

Early Years Network

This June, Reception teachers from across ONE Trust gathered for a writing moderation focus, as part of our Early Years Network. We reviewed children's writing samples and engaged in professional discussions to facilitate accurate and consistent judgements. The writing was evaluated against the end of year Early Learning Goal, which can be one of the most challenging for children to achieve.

The session was particularly timely, occurring just before the release of the Government's new Writing Framework and key focus. Topics from the framework, such as accurate letter formation, speaking ideas aloud, and using dictated sentences, were part of our discussions.

This collaborative approach helps us develop a shared understanding of early writing expectations, while also celebrating the progress our children are making across the Trust.



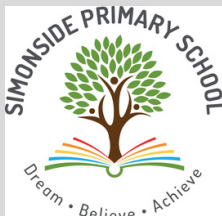
Carol Knowles, Early Years Lead at West Denton Primary School

Staffing Update

Goodbye and Thank You to Mrs Thompson

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Thompson, current Head Teacher at Simonside Primary School, at the end of this term. Mrs Thompson has been an integral part of the school, contributing significantly to its growth and development. Her departure will be felt deeply by the entire school community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her dedication and leadership over the years.

Due to Mrs Thompson's resignation at the end of this academic year, the Trust has successfully recruited a new Head Teacher to lead the school into its next chapter. We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Hills, who has been serving as the Deputy Head Teacher at Simonside, has been appointed to the position. She will officially take up her duties from 1st September 2025.



While we are truly saddened to see Mrs Thompson go, we are confident that Mrs Hills will continue to build on the strong foundation laid. Mrs Hills' experience and familiarity with the school's ethos and operations make her an excellent choice to guide Simonside through the next stage of its journey.

A message from the Chair of the ONE Trust Board

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is a great pleasure to reflect on just how much has been achieved across the Trust. The progress made in our schools over the past twelve months has been truly inspiring, and it is a testament to the dedication, collaboration, and shared vision of our entire school community.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to these achievements. From classroom teachers and support staff to Head Teachers, governors, and our Central Team—your hard work and commitment have made a real difference in the lives of our children.



Under the strong and thoughtful leadership of our CEO, Julie Stuart, collaboration between schools has continued to grow. This spirit of partnership has not only strengthened relationships across the Trust but has also led to improved outcomes for our pupils. We are especially grateful to our families for their ongoing support, encouragement, and engagement—it is a vital part of what makes our schools thrive.

Looking ahead, we are excited to deepen the connection between our schools and the Trust Board. From September, each school will have a dedicated Link Trustee, helping to build even stronger relationships and ensure that the voices of our school communities are heard and valued at every level.

At this time of year, we also take a moment to say goodbye and good luck to those who are moving on. We send our very best wishes to all our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. We also extend our sincere thanks and warmest wishes to Mrs Thompson, Head Teacher at Simonside Primary School, who is leaving us after making a lasting impact on their school community.

Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils, families, and staff a wonderful, restful summer break. Thank you once again for everything you do to make our Trust such a special place to learn and grow.

Helen Richardson, Chair of the ONE Trust Board of Trustees

