

Trust Prospectus

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Welcome

Welcome to our Victoria Academies Trust Prospectus.

This document gives you an introduction to Victoria Academies Trust and what it is like to be a pupil or colleague in our Trust, or a new school joining us. We are a close knit family of schools who work together to be the best we can be for our pupils, colleagues and families. Each school is unique, a focal point in their own community, but united by our Trust Mission, Vision and Values.

Our leaders are experienced educational professionals and we pride ourselves that in our Trust we are 'schools leading schools'. We hope that this prospectus gives you an insight into who we are, what we believe in and what it is like to be part of the Victoria Academies Trust family.



“

The school is a welcoming oasis that is firmly at the heart of the community. There is a strong sense of belonging amongst staff and pupils.

Birchen Coppice Ofsted 2024

“

A key strength is the collaboration between leaders across the school and within the Trust, working together to keep each child at the heart of everything they do.

Devonshire Infant Ofsted 2025

About us

Victoria Academies Trust is a primary only Trust based in the West Midlands consisting of a mix of sponsor, converter and free schools, both mainstream and special. It was set up with the sole aim ‘to make our people the best they can be’. We are passionate about making a difference to the lives of our pupils, families and colleagues.

We have a strong board of Trustees who work closely with the Trust executive team to focus on our goals of investing in our school communities, growing and valuing our colleagues and preparing our children for the future. This ensures that our schools are on a continual journey to the best they can be.



Our Journey

Victoria Academies Trust is an established Multi Academy Trust set up in 2014 and named after its founder school, Victoria Park in Smethwick. It has grown year on year and currently is made up of eleven schools across the West Midlands.

We were proud to open Elm Tree Academy, our first SEND school, as a Free School in 2022. The school provides much needed places for autistic children across Sandwell. Our newest school, Whitehall Nursery and Infants, joined as a converter school in April 2025. Our schools are a mix of sponsor, converter and free schools, linked by our mission vision and values.

2012



Victoria Park
Primary becomes
Victoria Park
Academy

Victoria
Academies Trust
founded



2014

Whitehall Nursery
& Infant Academy
joins us as a
converter school



2025

2014

Devonshire Infant
and Devonshire Junior
Academies, Sandwell
join as converter
academies

2015

Fibbersley Park
Academy, Walsall
joins as a sponsor
academy



Rowley Park
Academy, Stafford
joins as the first
sponsor academy



2014

Poppyfield
Academy, Cannock
opens as our first
Free School



Northfield
Manor Academy,
Birmingham joins as
a converter academy



2016

Birchen Coppice
Academy,
Worcestershire joins
as a sponsor academy



Elm Tree Academy,
Sandwell opens as our
first specialist free
school



2019



Foley Park Academy,
Worcestershire
joins as a converter
academy



2017

Our Mission

Our mission is our reason for being - it is simply: to make our people the best they can be.

Our Vision

Our vision is the picture we paint, the future we want to create, based on our mission.

We are a **family** of schools, **united in our passion** for **inspiring pupils** to **achieve more than they imagine possible**.

We have a **positive influence** on children's lives in areas where we can **make the most difference**.

We are **ambitious** for our children. Our **high expectations** of them, the **memorable experiences** and **opportunities** they have in our schools, along with the **kindness** and **compassion** which is at the centre of our Trust means that they will be **successful** in whatever they choose for their future.

We are at the **heart of our communities**; a place where local people can turn to for help, support and guidance, working with us for the greater good of our shared community.

We are **aspirational** for our people, who are given opportunities to **grow, develop** and become **experts** in their chosen fields.

Our people feel **valued and supported**; they show **ambition, courage** and **resilience**, but most of all are **kind and respectful**.



“

The Trust's values of, 'unity, integrity, courage, curiosity and excellence' are at the heart of the school. Pupils are fully inclusive and empathetic.

Foley Park Ofsted 2024

Our Values

Our values are important to us and guide our behaviours, our relationships and the way we work together. They define how we want to be.

These values of Unity, Integrity, Courage, Curiosity and Excellence, along with our commitment to strong ethical leadership ensure that we build a positive and powerful legacy to be proud of.



Unity

We know that by working together we are stronger than working alone.



Integrity

We always do what we believe is right and true. We show kindness and respect to others.



Courage

We are willing to take on challenges with enthusiasm, determination, and resilience.



Curiosity

We have a passion to learn, explore and discover new things.



Excellence

We learn from our mistakes, always working to become the best we can be.

“

The school delivers a rich, high-quality education tailored to pupils. It helps pupils to feel confident, capable and empowered.’

Elm Tree Ofsted 2025

What makes us unique

We want our pupils, our families and our colleagues to be the best they can be. Well-being is always high on our agenda; if our people feel safe, happy and well, we know that this will support us to be the best we can be.

Our vision is for our children to be inspired to achieve more than they imagine possible. We want our children to be readied for the next stages in education, and ultimately to become successful in whatever they choose for their futures.

To do this, we need to ensure that they receive the best possible education in the best possible schools. We are ambitious for our children and believe that a curriculum which provides meaningful experiences

and opportunities is central to ensuring that our children are successful in life. Our values unite our schools in their approach to curriculum design; its purpose and aspirations for developing our young people as pioneers of their learning and their futures, as curious and courageous citizens.

Learning for all is important to us, from our broad, balanced and meaningful approach to student learning, right through to our own VAT professional development strategy for our colleagues. This bespoke model puts our colleagues in control of their own continued and self-professional development. We believe in a 'grow your own' strategy and pride ourselves that so many of our colleagues have progressed to new challenges and roles within our family of schools.

Our Team

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Sharron Philpot

Previously headteacher, executive headteacher and school improvement advisor.

Oversees the executive team, and the strategic direction of the Trust, reporting directly to the board of trustees. Also accounting officer for the Trust.

**Chief Operating Officer:**

Ian Kirby

Chartered accountant with a corporate financial background. Responsible for all aspects relating to finance, procurement, estates, legal and HR.

Leading a central team who deal with these areas, allowing school teams to focus on education.



**Directors of Schools:
(School Improvement,
Community & Compliance)**

Kate Tewley



**Director of Schools
(People, Inclusion &
Innovation. Blurb for them:**

Hayley Mapp

Experienced headteachers and executive head teachers with a track record of improving schools. They work on a daily basis with headteachers and leadership teams to coach, mentor and support in addition to undertaking regular school improvement visits.

Leading on specific areas of our strategic work, they manage our central school improvement support team, deploying relevant staff to provide bespoke 'hands on' support to enable our schools to be on a journey of continuous improvement.

“

‘Pupils are proud of their school. They welcome visitors with happy, smiling faces. Parents typically describe the school as being like a family.’

Fibbersley Park Ofsted 2023

Our Central Team

Our central team works across all schools to provide bespoke support to ensure our schools are the best they can be. All of our schools have access to support from the central team.

Our non-education central team do the 'heavy lifting' allowing our headteachers and schools to focus on education. Our education central team are experienced professionals who are deployed to work across our schools.

Our Head Teachers play a vital role within the central team, leading across the trust in their individual areas of expertise, helping to drive improvement, share best practice and shape strategic direction.

Education Central Services Support:

- CPD
- Teaching and Learning
- Data and Assessment
- EYFS
- SEND
- Curriculum
- Poverty Proofing
- Oracy
- Community Engagement
- Individual subject specific areas
- Attendance (Education Welfare Officer)
- School Improvement

Non Education Central Services Team

- Head of Finance
- Head of HR
- Head of Estates
- Head of IT Networks
- Governance Professional
- Central Finance Team

Why be a pupil at VAT?



Focus on every child being the best they can be.



Focus on critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and readying children for the future.



Access to expert fully qualified teachers from across the family of schools.



Opportunities to meet and work with pupils from a wide range of schools.



Access to the national curriculum taught in a real, immersive and purposeful way.



Access to a curriculum which is ambitious, aspirational and tailored to individual needs.

Why be a colleague at VAT?



Focus on workload and well-being, including access to employee wellbeing scheme including counselling, health and medical appointments & support and a range of lifestyle benefits.



Opportunities to share best practice and collaborate with colleagues within and across schools.



Opportunities to take on new challenges and roles within the Trust.



Bespoke professional development package tailored to meet the needs of all colleagues in all roles.



Coaching culture of continuous improvement.



Why bring your school to join VAT?



A family of schools led by experienced educational professionals - 'schools leading schools'.



Central support with finance, procurement, estates, IT, legal and HR.



Values led and authentic leadership who support schools in a journey of continuous improvement.



Autonomy of being your own unique school within the approaches and support of VAT.



Strong central team who support all aspects of school improvement.



Opportunities for shared resources to ensure effective use of funding for schools.



Victoria Academies Trust

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