

Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School
'An excellent, happy school where we enjoy learning.'
A summary from the Governors - July 2018



In last years report we made you aware that as a governing body we were working with partner schools to look at becoming part of a multi-academy trust. As a governing body we wanted to make the most of opportunities for furthering the visions of our school and while minimising the threats to them. This has been one of the major decisions we have had to make as a governing body and we believe that in helping to form Empower Trust we have done just that.

What is Empower Trust?

Empower Trust is a network of unique and diverse church and community academies (formed 1st June 2018) dedicated to collaborating to ensure the provision of an outstanding education for every child within the Trust. Our mission is to ensure that we give every child the very best education possible - socially, morally and academically. Academies within Empower Trust demonstrate the courage to innovate and empower every member of the school community to play their part in developing exciting and imaginative child-centred learning experiences.

A clear ethos and agreed set of values underpins the way all the Trust's academies collaborate. The Christian character of the Church of England academies within the Trust is maintained through positive links with the Diocese of Lichfield.

Empower Trust celebrates the fact that every school is different. Each of its academies retains a unique ethos and character that responds to the needs of its local community. The role of Local Governing Bodies in developing and monitoring each school remains vital in ensuring local needs are prioritised. We aim to ensure every parent will want to select our academies as their local school of choice by doing everything possible to support all children to become successful learners and to develop into young people of whom the family, academy and community can be proud.

The founding members of Empower Trust are:

Greenacres Primary School, Shrewsbury
Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School
Market Drayton Junior School
St.Peter's CE Primary and Nursery School, Wem
The Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury
Woodfield Infant School, Shrewsbury

An exciting new website is under development for Empower Trust and can be visited at:

<http://www.empowertrust.co.uk/>





An exciting curriculum

As a school we hold great value in keeping a broad and balanced curriculum. The children have many enrichment activities, including a visit from the dinosaur, a virtual reality trip into space and a trip to Llandudno. Whilst there are many pressures on schools, one of our main aims is to continue to keep the curriculum breadth we have in order for our children to continue to thrive.

Artsmark: All staff took part in 'Voices Foundation' training to teach the music curriculum via singing. Arts Award, a National-ly recognised qualification for children to develop their understanding of the arts, was completed by two groups of children in school and via an after school club. Parents attended a workshop and were impressed with the quality of the children's work.

Eco Schools: The Eco School group has now extended to include all year groups, staff, parents and governors. They have achieved the Bronze award and are working towards Silver. There has been a competition to ask children to design posters to help keep the areas surrounding school dog poo free, children have taken part in themed activities such as 'switch off day' and 'walk to school week'. Recycling has been a big focus within school and will continue through to next year.

Our strategic plan and challenges ahead

The governors have reviewed their strategic plan since becoming an academy. This plan lists key objectives against our school and Empower Trust aims, and includes commitments to a broad curriculum and to ensuring that the school is an inclusive one. Over the period of the plan we want to:

- Work with the Junior School and Grove School to develop the role of Family Support Worker in order to ensure that all children and families receive targeted Early Help.
- Work with the Local Authority and the other schools in Empower Trust to ensure that there is a clear approach to supporting mental health and well-being.
- Develop innovative ways to develop learning and teaching within the school.
- Diminish the difference between attainment of disadvantaged children and 'other' children nationally.

The plan also identifies **one major challenge** currently facing governors and describes our approach to them:

- The Local Authority projects a shortage of school places within Market Drayton over the next few years. We will work proactively with the other town schools to ensure there is adequate provision within their own community for all children in our school catchment area.

School Governors

The governors' page on the school website tells you who we are, who appointed us and our attendance record. It also lists our relevant business or other interests. It's our job to make sure that everything is in place so that children can do their best learning. We agree our strategic direction. We monitor and evaluate the school's work, acting as a critical friend to the headteacher and we are accountable for progress at the school. Earlier this year we said thank you and goodbye to our former Chair, Dr Allan Howells, and welcomed our new Chair, and longstanding governor at the school, Mr Matthew Hughes.

Market Drayton Infant School - Respect, Independence, Communication, Enjoyment