



QUEST Annual  
Trust Report  
2024/25

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUST (Pages 3–5)

- Welcome from our CEO
- Our Schools
- Our Mission and Vision
- Our Values
- Strategic Objectives

## 2. HIGH QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (Pages 6–9)

- Stronger Leadership
- Stronger Teaching and Learning
- Stronger Accountability
- Stronger Expectations

## 3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Pages 10–13)

- Strategic Reports
- Key Achievements Across Schools
- Ofsted Outcomes
- SIAMS Inspections
- Celebrating Success

## 4. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS (Pages 14–15)

- Coaching and Professional Development
- Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
- External Partnerships

## 5. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (Pages 16–17)

- Governance and Accountability
- Trust-wide Initiatives
- Key Operational Developments

## 6. WORKFORCE AND CULTURE (Pages 18–19)

- Staff Development and Training
- QUEST Training Centre
- Culture and Wellbeing

## 7. FINANCE AND RESOURCES (Pages 20–21)

- Financial Review
- Investments and Reserves
- Risk Management
- Donations

## 8. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP (Pages 22–23)

- Governance Framework
- Trustee Board and Committees
- Local Governing Bodies
- Future Plans

## 9. FUTURE DIRECTION (Pages 24–25)

- Acknowledgements

## Welcome from our CEO

It is my pleasure to present the QUEST Annual Report for 2025. This year has been one of real progress and strength across our family of schools.

QUEST is a unique Trust of faith and non-faith schools working together collaboratively and Supporting Young People from Early Years to Employment. Our mission reflects our steadfast dedication to preparing young minds for a lifelong quest for knowledge, character, and service.

As CEO, I am continually inspired by the commitment of our staff, the achievements of our pupils, and the strength of our partnerships with families, churches, and communities. Together, we are creating a culture where children can flourish, staff can grow, and our schools can thrive.

We look forward to continuing our journey and building on this year's successes, ensuring that every child we serve is prepared for life and empowered to achieve their full potential.



Marc Doyle  
Chief Executive

## Our Schools



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Church of England  
Primary School, Abram



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Church of England  
Primary School, Hindley Green



**ST. PETER'S**  
Church of England  
Primary School



**HINDLEY GREEN**  
Community Primary School



**UNIVERSITY**  
Collegiate School

At the end of July 2025, we were proud to be educating 1,713 pupils and 25 Nursery children across four primary schools in Wigan and one secondary school/UTC in Bolton. Every school in the Trust is working tirelessly to provide a broad and balanced education rooted in Christian values of respect, compassion, and kindness.

## Our Mission and Vision

At QUEST, we are passionate about a future where the power of strong relationships, an unwavering commitment to our faith-driven values, and a focus on lifelong learning will propel all children to achieve well and go on to great things.

We believe that at the heart of our community lies a commitment to our 'why?' – the children that we serve. As a Christian Multi Academy Trust rooted in serving through kindness, we are guided by the values of respect and compassion. These principles underpin everything we do, creating an atmosphere where children and staff flourish in a professional, responsible and loyal way.

Through personalised learning experiences, a diverse curriculum and robust support systems, we cultivate well-rounded individuals ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.



HGCP Pupil

## Our Values



## Strategic Objectives

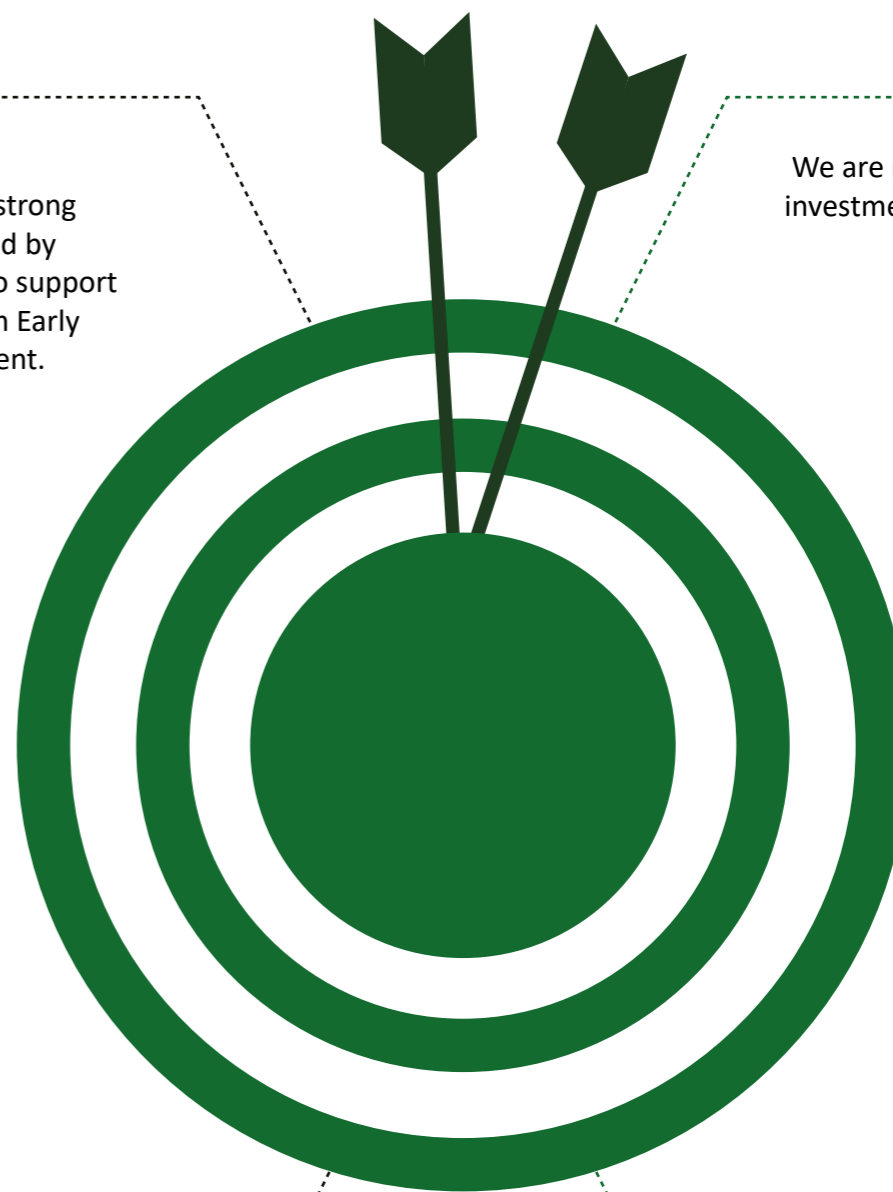
Our Strategy for building a strong Trust is based upon four strategic objectives:



We are building a United Trust with strong governance, guided by Christian values, to support young people from Early Years to employment.



We are nurturing a culture of investment in our pupils, staff and buildings.



Developing strong accountability systems to improve the attendance, outcomes and experiences for our children, with a curriculum that meets the needs of all students, encourages them to come to school and helps them to achieve career aspirations.



We are building long-lasting partnerships to help our Trust grow.

## Stronger Leadership

We are committed to communicating the Trust message effectively to all stakeholders. Leadership across QUEST is focused on developing strong accountability systems so that school improvement priorities remain central to everything we do.

Quality Assurance is embedded throughout the Trust, ensuring that leadership is consistent, visible and contributes directly to good teaching and learning. Leaders make effective use of data and receive the training they need to flourish.

Governance at Trust and Board level is continually being enhanced to support cohesion, and our central team is being strengthened to ensure we have the capacity to grow. Clear and consistent communication strategies are in place for pupils, parents and the community.

Alongside this, we are developing succession planning and leadership pathways, while building strong external partnerships that help QUEST grow and become stronger.



“Leadership across QUEST is consistent, visible and contributes directly to good teaching and learning.”

## Stronger Teaching and Learning

Supporting learners who are disadvantaged and those with SEND to achieve well.

### At Primary:

- Strengthen curriculum sequencing.
- Emphasise metacognition and neurodiversity.
- Provide strategies to engage pupils capable of achieving Greater Depth at KS2.



### At Secondary:

- Strengthen curriculum scope and ambition.
- Improve sequencing of key knowledge and skills.
- Ensure consistency of both formal and informal assessment processes.



### Trust Wide:

- Secure a standardised professional development strategy within each academy and at Trust level, responsive to staff needs.
- Invest in staff development through clear pathways, associate leadership roles, secondments and NPQs.
- Enhance the quality of teaching and assessment, leading to better outcomes across all phases.
- Secure greater consistency in leadership at all levels.
- Promote collaboration on key priorities, peer support and review.
- Improve clarity of self-evaluation, moderation and benchmarking.



### Stronger Accountability

We are committed to ensuring the effective implementation of standardised assessment and moderation across the Trust. Quality Assurance procedures are strengthened through collaboration with partners and the sharing of best practice.

A Trust-wide data strategy enables us to track trends effectively and align practices and procedures in all five schools. This ensures QUEST has one united common voice.



“A United Trust with One Common Voice.”

Our curriculum is designed to be effective at every key stage, engaging all pupils and securing depth of knowledge, appropriate sequencing, recall and memory retention. By maintaining this focus, we continue to strengthen accountability and deliver consistency across the Trust.

### Stronger Expectations

Secure a climate of high expectations amongst all stakeholders.

Establish a cross-phase literacy strategy, with an initial emphasis on oracy, reading and writing.

Introduce the QUEST for Life challenge to provide children with opportunities they would not otherwise have.

Enhance targeted academic intervention to improve pupil outcomes.

Deliver fully on the UTCness at University Collegiate School.

## Strategic Reports

One of the Trust's key strategic objectives is that "we are building long-lasting partnerships to help our Trust grow." Working with others is crucial to our success.

We are committed to nurturing authentic relationships with our stakeholders. This partnership-driven approach is delivering tangible success, driving improvement, celebrating achievement, and strengthening our collective impact on education.

The Trust continues to align its delivery with the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, maintaining a sharp focus

on quality and impact. The introduction of the CUSP curriculum has significantly enhanced teaching and learning, supported by targeted training and coaching for staff.

Curriculum development has been enriched through quality assurance and collaboration, ensuring our schools remain at the forefront of innovation.

Our literacy focus has been strengthened by the creation of **Bramhall's Book Club**, while the appointment of a Director of Inclusion and Vulnerabilities and a Trust-wide SEND register is improving outcomes for learners with the greatest needs.

## Key Achievements Across Schools

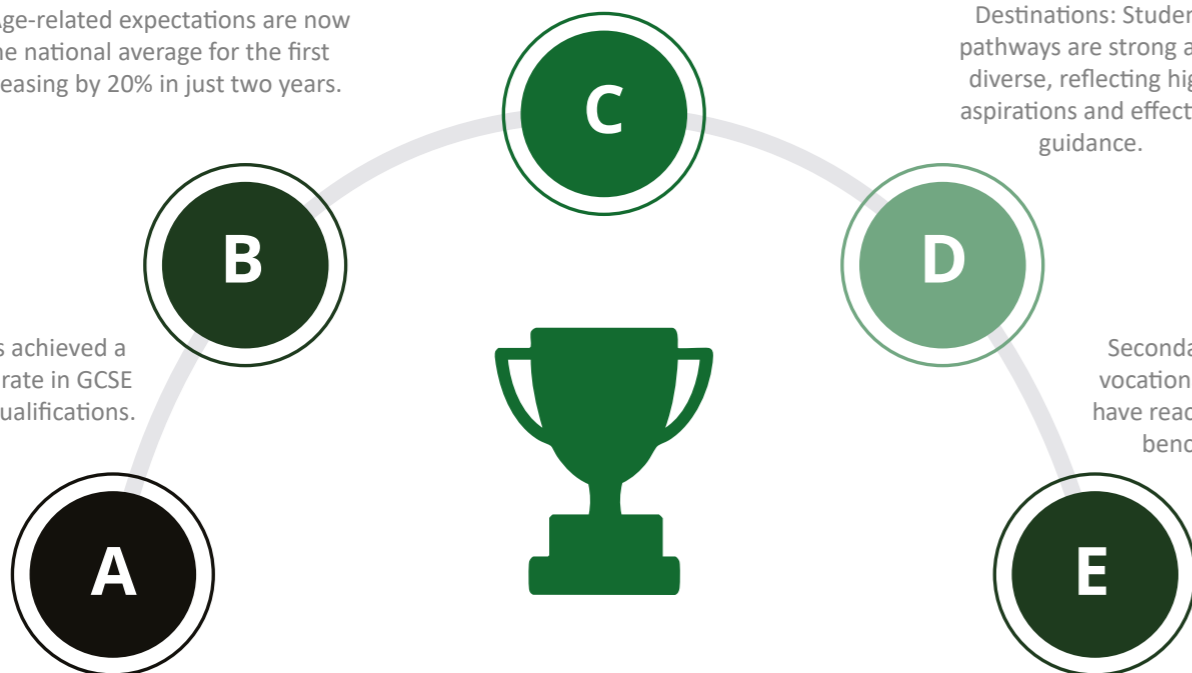
Trust-wide: QUEST is proud to be an award-winning Trust, led by a lead Ofsted Inspector and a National Leader of Education, supporting schools across our communities.

Primary: Age-related expectations are now above the national average for the first time, increasing by 20% in just two years.

Destinations: Student pathways are strong and diverse, reflecting high aspirations and effective guidance.






KS4: Pupils achieved a 100% pass rate in GCSE and BTEC qualifications.

Secondary: Post-16 vocational outcomes have reached national benchmarks.



## Ofsted Outcomes

QUEST is proud that all of its schools are rated Good by Ofsted. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff, the strength of our leadership, and the commitment of our pupils and communities.

- 
St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley  
GOOD - February 2024
- 
St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Abram  
GOOD - March 2023
- 
St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley Green  
GOOD - February 2023
- 
Hindley Green Community Primary School  
GOOD - January 2023
- 
University Collegiate School  
GOOD - September 2024



## SIAMS Inspections

As a Church of England Multi Academy Trust, QUEST is committed to ensuring that its Christian ethos underpins every aspect of school life. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) plays a vital role in affirming this commitment.

All of our Church of England schools have been inspected and judged to be Good. Inspectors highlighted the strength of our Christian values in action, the care and compassion shown within our communities, and the way pupils are encouraged to flourish both academically and personally.

Our schools continue to embody the vision of “life in all its fullness”, where children are nurtured to grow in character, faith, and learning. This reinforces our mission of Supporting Young People from Early Years to Employment within a framework of respect, responsibility and kindness.



**SIAMS**  
Inspection 2025



## Celebrating Success

This year has seen many successes across our Trust schools, reflecting the hard work of pupils, staff and leaders.

At Primary, outcomes in Reading, Writing and Maths have risen sharply, with more children than ever reaching age-related expectations. At Secondary, students have achieved outstanding results across a broad range of GCSE, BTEC and Post-16 qualifications, opening doors to ambitious next steps in education, training and employment.

Beyond academic achievement, QUEST schools are also places where wider personal development is celebrated. Pupils have embraced opportunities in sport, the arts, leadership and community service, demonstrating resilience, compassion and a strong sense of responsibility.

“

Together, our achievements highlight the positive difference QUEST is making in the lives of young people every day.

”

Our staff are equally committed to excellence, with colleagues contributing to national initiatives, presenting at conferences and leading on curriculum and inclusion developments across the region.

Together, these achievements highlight the collective strength of our Trust and the positive difference we are making in the lives of young people every day.

## Coaching and Professional Development

Regular reviews, peer evaluations and targeted support are used to identify strengths and priorities across the Trust. Senior and middle leaders engage in coaching and mentoring programmes, ensuring that improvement is both sustainable and embedded in daily practice. Professional development is tailored to individual and organisational needs, supporting leadership growth and classroom excellence.

## Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

Collaboration is central to QUEST's culture. Leaders and staff work closely across schools, sharing best practice and aligning strategies for curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. Stakeholder engagement — including parents, governors and community partners — ensures that improvement priorities are informed by those we serve.

## External Partnerships

The Trust works with a wide range of external organisations, including local authorities, diocesan education boards, teaching schools and universities. These relationships strengthen leadership capacity, broaden professional learning opportunities and enhance curriculum design. Through collaborative networks, we have developed strong professional communities where expertise and innovation are shared for the benefit of all learners.

“

Collaboration and partnership sit at the heart of continuous improvement across QUEST.”

”



QUEST continues to invest in its operational systems and infrastructure to ensure that all schools are safe, efficient, and well supported. The central team works closely with each academy to provide high-quality services in finance, estates, compliance, IT and governance.

## Governance and Accountability



HGSJ Pupil reading book



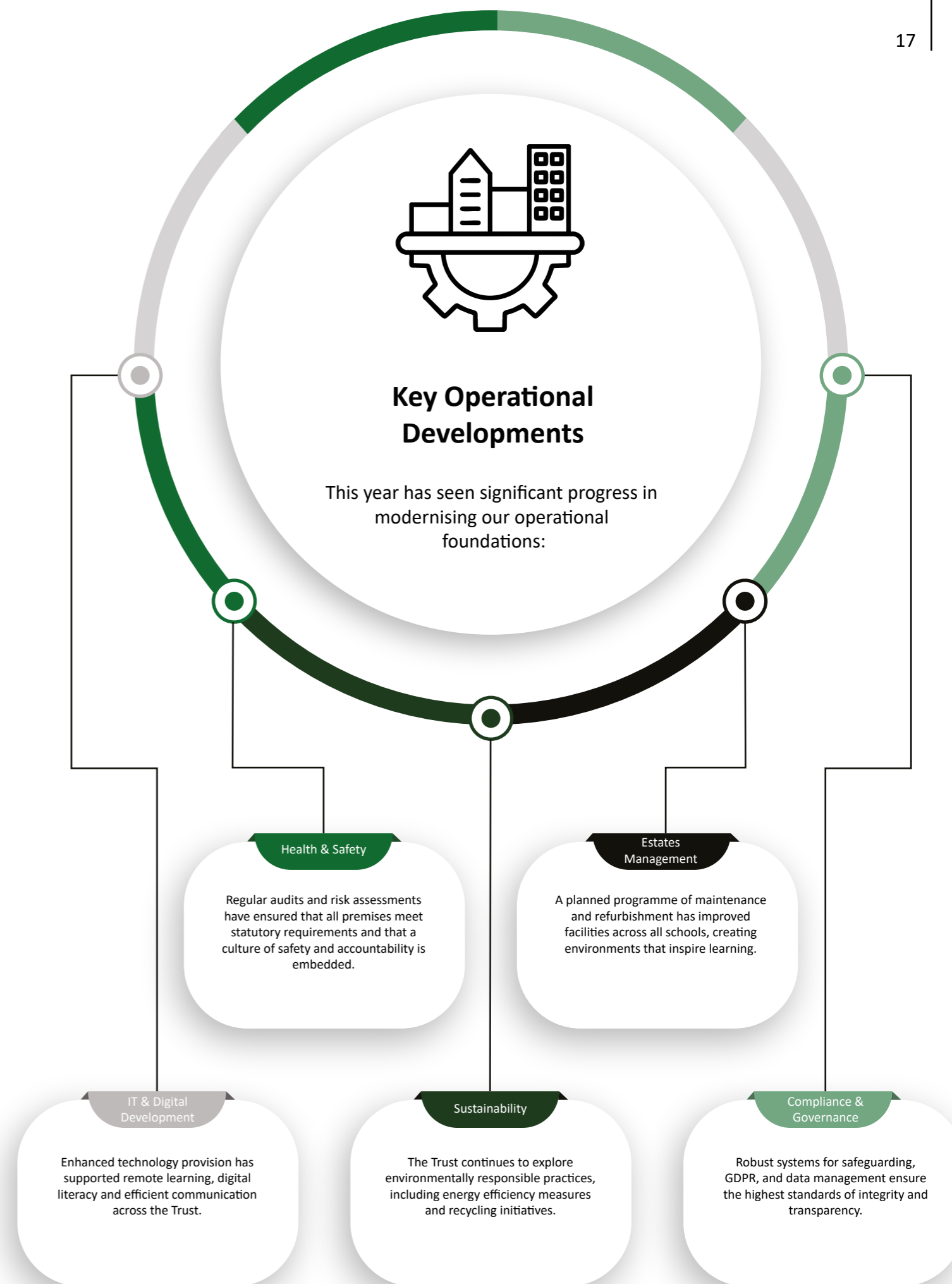
HGCP Pupil playing music

Robust systems of governance and accountability underpin all Trust operations. Clear reporting structures, regular audits and compliance checks ensure transparency and effectiveness. Trustees and governors receive comprehensive data and oversight reports, allowing them to make informed, strategic decisions that drive improvement across all schools.

## Trust - Wide Initiatives

The Trust has implemented several cross-school initiatives to streamline operations and maximise efficiency. Centralised finance, HR, payroll, and procurement services ensure consistency and value for money. Shared systems for safeguarding, GDPR compliance and data management uphold the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

These operational improvements strengthen the foundations of the Trust, enabling leaders and teachers to focus on what matters most — delivering outstanding education for all pupils.



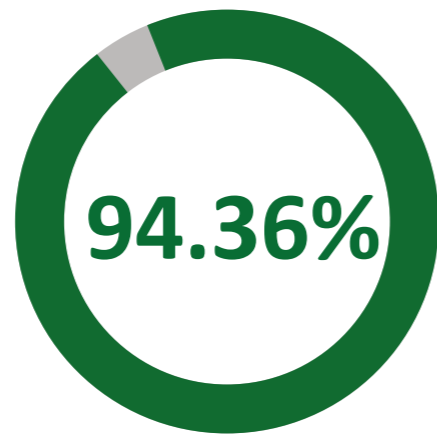
Our people are at the heart of everything we do. QUEST is proud of its dedicated and talented workforce who live out our values every day — professional, compassionate, responsible, respectful, loyal and kind.

## Staff Development and Training

We believe in investing in our staff through high-quality professional development, clear career pathways and a culture of collaboration.



100% of colleagues have participated in CPD



94.36% pupil attendance across the trust



100% of new staff completed QUEST's induction and safeguarding training.



Through targeted CPD, coaching, and NPQ opportunities, staff are supported to develop and excel.

## QUEST Training Centre

The QUEST Training Centre provides a central hub for professional learning, coaching, and leadership development across the Trust.

820



820 hours of CPD delivered at the QUEST Training Centre

8



8 people supported through NPQ qualifications.

100%



100% of schools accessed QUEST Training Centre provision.

## Culture and Wellbeing

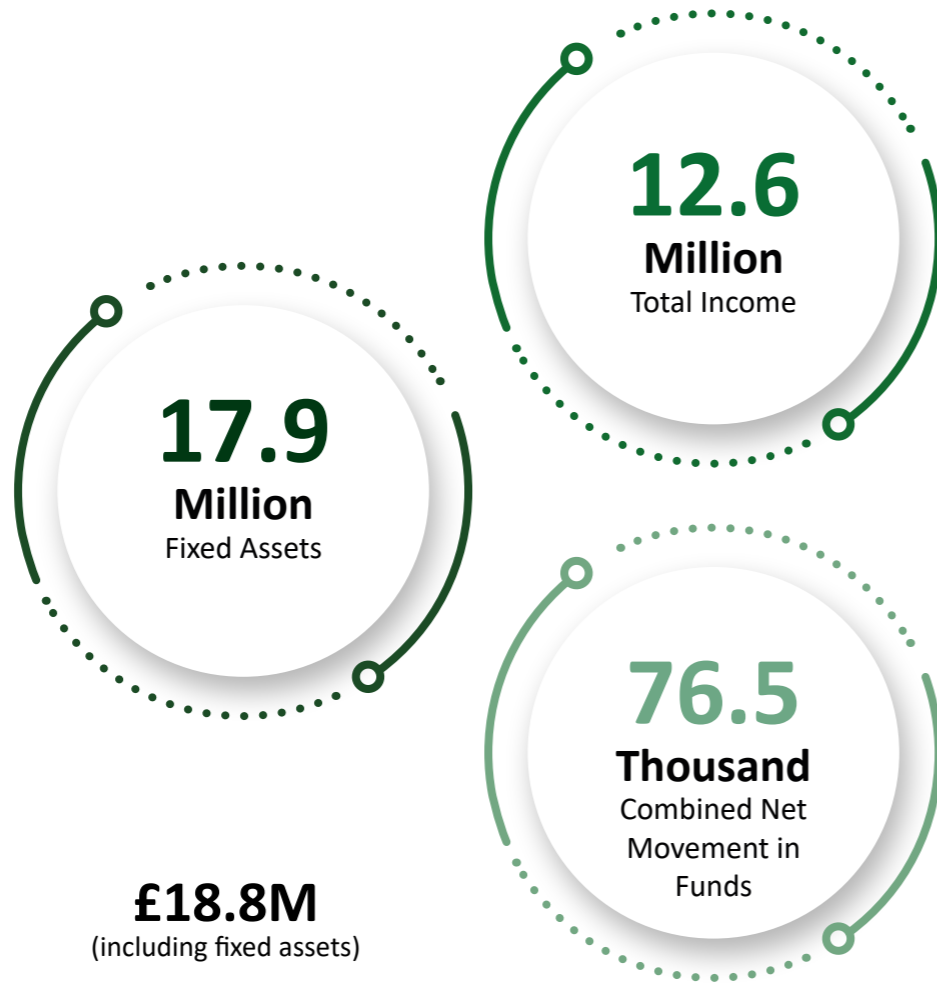
Staff wellbeing remains a key priority. Our Wellbeing offer underpins a proactive approach to mental health, workload balance and professional satisfaction. Regular surveys, wellbeing champions and open forums ensure staff voices are heard and acted upon.

A positive culture of trust, respect and recognition runs throughout the organisation. By fostering professional autonomy and celebrating success, we continue to build a workforce that feels valued, motivated and committed to the QUEST vision.

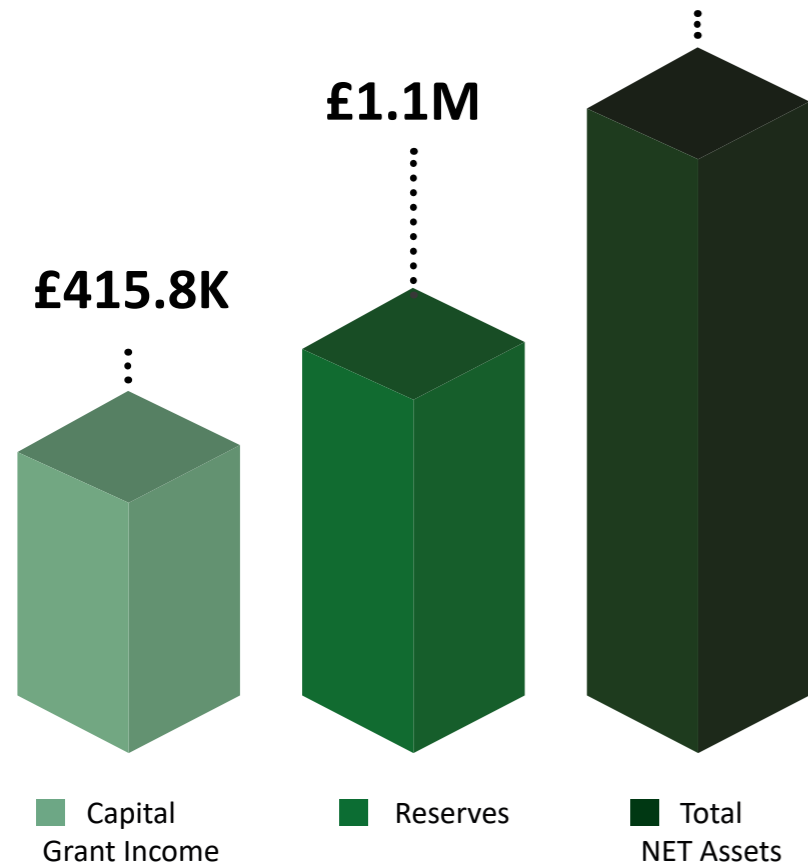
**Financial Review**

The Trust has maintained a secure financial footing throughout 2024–25.

Income has been managed prudently, with spending aligned to strategic priorities that directly support pupil outcomes, staff development, and estate improvements. Financial performance is monitored by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and reported regularly to Trustees, ensuring transparency and accountability.



**£18.8M**  
(including fixed assets)



**Investments and Reserves**

QUEST’s reserves are managed in accordance with the Trust’s Reserves Policy to ensure financial sustainability and readiness for future opportunities.

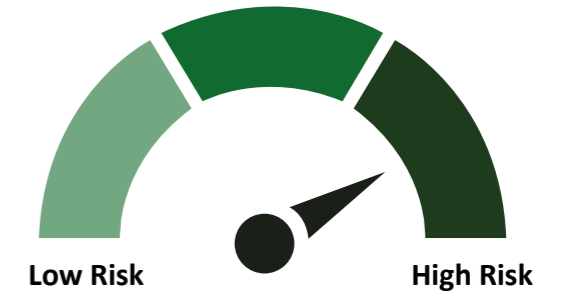
Reserve funds have been carefully invested into improving facilities and building, learning resources, staffing and development.

The Trustees are satisfied that reserves are sufficient to safeguard operations.

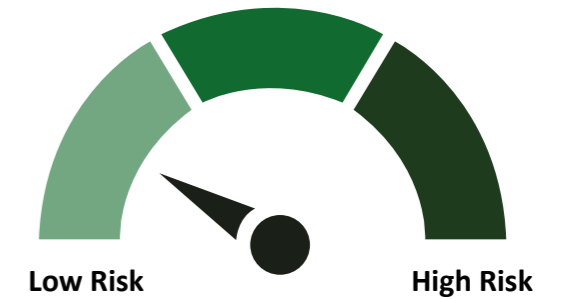
**Risk Management**

The Board of Trustees maintains a comprehensive Risk Register, reviewed regularly by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Robust systems and controls are in place to manage financial, operational, and educational risks effectively, ensuring that QUEST continues to operate safely, sustainably, and in full statutory compliance.



**Top Monitored Risks:**  
safeguarding compliance, staff recruitment and retention, financial sustainability.



**All risks rated low to moderate after mitigation**



ASJ Pupils

### Governance Framework

The Members of the Academy Trust have a distinct and separate role as guardians of the constitution and governance of the Trust. They hold the Trustees to account for ensuring that the purpose of the Trust is met and its charitable objectives are fulfilled.

The Trust Board has overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for the work of the Academy Trust, including the establishment and maintenance of its schools. Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, defining the strategic direction and growth of the Trust, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the

Trust and schools through financial and performance information, and approving the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Governance is defined in the Trust’s **Articles of Association**, together with the **Master and Supplemental Funding Agreements** with the Department for Education. Roles and responsibilities of Trustees, Local Governing Body (LGB) representatives, the Trust Executive Team and School Senior Leaders are clearly outlined in the **Scheme of Delegation**, ensuring effective decision-making at all levels.

### Trustee Board and Committees

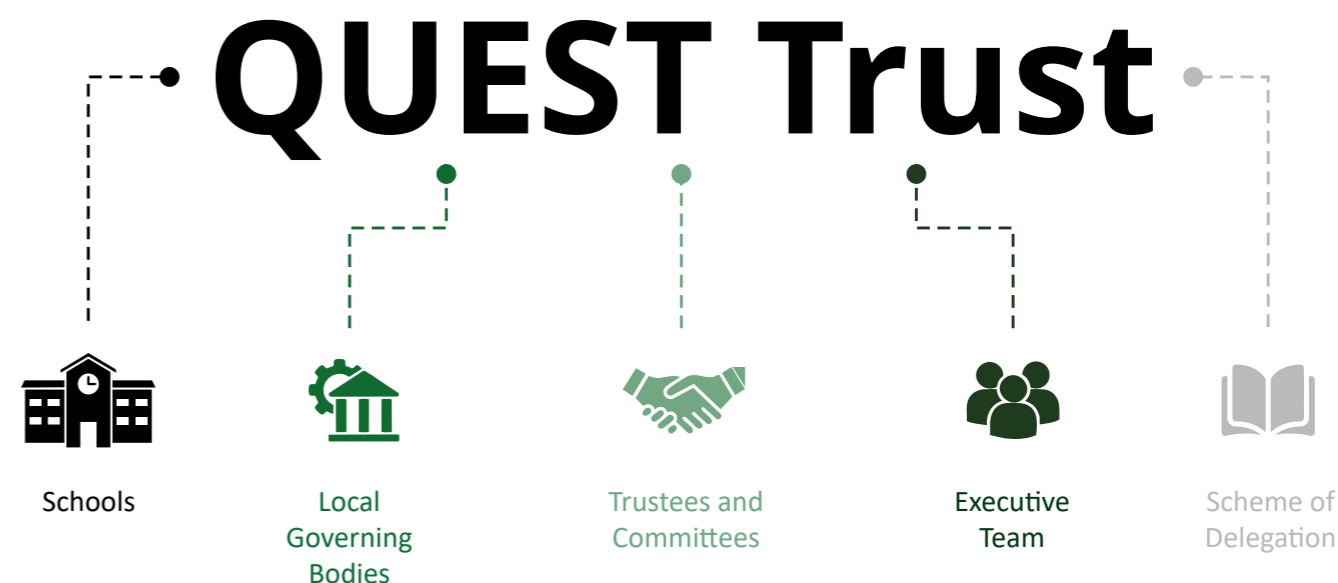
The Board of Trustees meets regularly, with the first meeting of each academic year designated as the business meeting.

The Trustee committees meet at least once per term. Reports from these committees and the Local Governing Bodies are received, scrutinised and ratified by the full Board of Trustees, ensuring rigorous oversight and accountability.

### Local Governing Bodies

Each school within the Trust has its own Local Governing Body, which includes representatives from the Headteacher or Head of School, staff, parents and carers, and Board-appointed members. **The University Collegiate School (UCS)** LGB also includes employer sponsors, strengthening community and industry links.

LGB representatives make regular visits to schools, attend meetings and support community events, ensuring that local voices and priorities remain central to decision-making.



### Future Plans

An external review of governance was undertaken in Summer 2024 to ensure best practice and prepare for the next phase of Trust evolution and growth.

Looking ahead, QUEST will continue to grow as a multi-academy trust, working with communities across its geographical clusters to manage sponsor-led academies and open new free schools.

By collaborating with the University of Greater Manchester and expanding partnerships with employer sponsors, the Trust aims to further strengthen its academic specialisms and life-skills provision, ensuring that all students are well prepared for the workplace and higher education.

As QUEST looks ahead to the next phase of its journey, our focus remains firmly on **Supporting Young People from Early Years to Employment**. We will continue to strengthen our Trust-wide systems, invest in people and partnerships, and build upon the strong foundations already in place.

Our mission remains unchanged — to nurture confident, compassionate and capable young people who are ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

## Acknowledgements

The Trust extends sincere thanks to our pupils, staff, governors, trustees, parents, community partners and sponsors for their continued dedication and support.

Together, we have achieved significant progress and remain committed to providing every young person with the best possible start in life.

### Our Aims:

Extend its family of schools through sustainable, values-led growth.

Deepen collaboration with the University of Greater Manchester and local employers to strengthen curriculum specialisms and pathways to work.

Continue to develop high-quality leadership through the QUEST Coaching and Leadership Pathway.

Embed digital innovation and sustainability across all schools.

Maintain financial stability through prudent management and strategic investment.

”

“Together, we are shaping bright futures and creating lasting impact.”

“





**For any enquiries or support please  
contact QUEST Trust:**

**QUEST Trust**  
682 Atherton Road  
Hindley Green  
Wigan  
WN2 4SQ

**01942 834 000**  
[enquiries@QUEST-trust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@QUEST-trust.org.uk)  
[www.QUEST-trust.org.uk](http://www.QUEST-trust.org.uk)

**Mr. M. Doyle** - Chief Executive Officer  
**Mrs. T. Hewitt** - Chief Finance & Operations Officer  
**Mrs. N. Richards** - Deputy CEO