

# CST - the Voice of School Trusts

Since our launch in October 2018, CST has been actively shaping the education policy agenda and speaking on your behalf. Bringing together school trusts in England from every region and of every size, CST has a strong, strategic presence with access to government and policy makers to drive real change for education on the big issues that matter most. And that's exactly what we've done.



## “Holding trust on behalf of children”



### ADVOCATE

#### Standing up for trusts

- A new narrative for school trusts, focusing on trusts as education charities that run schools to give children a better future - adopted by Rt Hon Damian Hinds, former Secretary of State for Education.
- 36 articles in the trade and national press – averaging three per month, including influential open letters and articles to which the Mayor of London and Rt Hon Robert Halfon, Chair of the Education Select Committee, responded.
- Strong social media presence promoting evidence and rebutting inaccurate messages about school trusts.

#### Speaking authoritatively to government and regulators

- Vice Chair of the Headteacher Standards Review Group and represented on several influential standing and advisory groups for the Department for Education.
- Cited by Eileen Milner, Chief Executive of the ESFA in her evidence to the Public Accounts Committee.
- Speaking authoritatively on a range of issues from executive pay to the new Ofsted Framework.

#### Making and influencing policy

- Influential sector-led 'white paper' on the future shape of the education system in England.
- Our policy on the assessment (rather than inspection) of multi-academy trusts and on trust capacity funding adopted.
- Supported and influenced high profile policy, for example the Early Career Framework, quoted in five press releases from the Department for Education and joint signatory to the workload letter and Recruitment and Retention Strategy.

### CONNECT

#### Connecting you to government, regulators and policy makers

- High profile round tables for our members with the Secretary of State, Ministers and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.
- Round table consultation events with senior civil servants' pre-policy announcements, for example on the Recruitment and Retention Strategy and Trust Capacity Fund.
- Surveys and regional events to engage members in our policy-making and lobbying agendas.
- Ministerial and senior policy-maker input at our conference series.

#### Connecting you to each other

- Convened several networks, including for system leaders of the larger trusts, improvement leaders, governance professionals, special school trusts and a London trust leaders' network.
- Working with the Regional Schools' Commissioners in Lancashire and West Yorkshire and the North of England to strengthen and convene networks.

- Working with several local/sub-regional networks to aggregate insights into national policy.

#### Connecting you to what you need to know

- Well-received fortnightly newsletters with everything executive and governance leaders need to know to keep ahead of the game.
- A comprehensive guidance and improvement hub, including improvement frameworks, finance and use of resources, governance and board evaluation, operational performance and self-evaluation, risk and workforce.
- Trust, an influential digital journal published every half term – the first of its kind – for executive and governance leaders featuring high-profile contributors.

### SUPPORT

#### Professional development

- 110 trustees trained on our Governance Leadership Programme worth £2,000 and free to school trusts governing two schools or more - we believe governing a trust is fundamentally different from governing a local authority-maintained school.
- A carefully designed support offer using the knowledge, capability and capacity of a small number of carefully chosen sector-leading commercial partners who are committed to building sector capacity and supporting improvement.
- 80 delegates at our popular and innovative masterclass programme covering topics including; Building your board, Growing sustainably, Inside the black box of school improvement, Curriculum and the new Ofsted framework.
- 15 bespoke seminars for individual trusts boards and/or executive teams.
- National Teacher Accreditation (NTA) – the only independent, national appropriate body offering a high quality NQT accreditation service to all types of schools and trusts. [www.nta.org.uk](http://www.nta.org.uk).

#### Conferences

- Three termly conferences in 2018-19 with ministerial input, a strong sector-

leadership focus and covered in the trade press.

- A bespoke conference and networking event for primary trusts – the first of its kind involving teams of executive and governance leaders over a 24-hour period.
- The launch of our inaugural annual conference in June 2020 – the first and only conference directly relevant to both executive and governance leaders of academy and multi-academy trusts.

#### Policy portal, tools and advisory services

- A dedicated portal for CST members on the Stone King website with access to a full set of model policies for school trusts.
- Influential, interactive strategic financial planning tool.
- Development of a network for governance professionals, Trust Governance Insight, in partnership with The Constant Group.
- Development of a safe, confidential and quality-assured governance advisory service run by specialists in academy and multi-academy trust governance – to be launched in September 2019.



## Our theory of change

CST's PLAN

### Inputs

A growing and powerful confederation of school trusts which advocates for the public benefit of education, has ethics at the heart of leadership and promotes the benefits of structural partnership, based on emerging evidence.

### Activities

Planned activities that:

- advocate for, connect and support executive and governance leaders in school trusts;
- aggregate insights build capacity and support the conditions for an intelligent system, to scale excellence.

### Outputs

Every school, part of a strong and sustainable group that is set up purely for the purpose of running and improving schools, in which every child is a powerful learner and adults learn and develop together as teachers and leaders.

### Outcomes

A strong school system with the capacity to focus on the substance and quality of education, characterised by excellence and equity for all children and young people.

### Impact

The intrinsic value of giving all children and young people access to the common body of knowledge we share and allowing all to participate fully in our society - improved equity, attainment, social and civic good, progression and labour market mobility.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND IMPACT

## About us

### Our governance and accountability

The Confederation of School Trusts (like the NHS Confederation which is the sector body and voice of NHS trusts) is the **sector body** that brings together and speaks on behalf of school trusts. We are a charitable company, registered with the Charity Commission. Our charitable purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is "the advancement of education for public benefit."

We are governed by a Board of Trustees and are subject to the regulations of the Charity Commission and accountable to our members.

We are strictly apolitical. We work with the government of the day, political parties and politicians across the spectrum to advance education for public benefit.

### How we are funded

Like other sector bodies (e.g. NHS Confederation), income is generated via several different activities. Approximately 50% of our income is generated through membership subscription, 25% is generated through conferences and events and 25% through our platinum partner programme. Income is re-invested in the delivery of the CST's charitable objectives.

## Our year in numbers

The smallest trust in membership educates **10** pupils in one school. The largest educates **40,000** pupils in **80** schools across local authorities from Cumbria to Kent

**36** articles in the trade press and national media

**1,794** users of Trust – our digital journal for executive and governance leaders

**100%** of the national trusts and **20%** of all academy schools in membership

More than **50%** of pupils in England now educated in the academy sector – **20%** of pupils educated in member-trusts

### Together we are stronger

Our members are our mandate and the reason we have established our credibility as the sector body so quickly.

### JOIN US TODAY

Call: **0115 917 0142** | Email: **admin@cstuk.org.uk**  
Visit our website: **www.cstuk.org.uk**

## A Year Of Impact 2019



Confederation of School Trusts