



Department  
for Education

# **Independent and state schools working together**

## Working in partnership

The Government is committed to creating more good school places, improving social mobility, and ensuring all pupils get the best start in life. We would like independent schools to join with us even more to raise standards across the wider school system.

The Schools that Work for Everyone consultation, published in September 2016, asked how we could harness the resources and expertise of our independent schools to work in partnership to create more good schools places, building on the already existing successful collaborations.

Your response was broadly positive: you have a keen sense of responsibility to your own local communities, and have proposed a range of ideas for working with state schools.

We know that independent schools already undertake a significant number of activities with the state sector, including:

- working in partnership, providing curriculum and governance support;
- sponsoring schools, or acting as co-sponsors or educational partners; and
- running free schools.

as well as a wide range of other partnership activities.

We want to work with you to build on this, to encourage and support you, working together to ensure the initiatives undertaken make a difference to children's lives.

## What are we asking you to do?

We would like you to provide support in ways that evidence shows can have a positive impact to children's academic outcomes. We would also like to see your bursary programmes targeted more towards children from ordinary working families and disadvantaged backgrounds.

We are very keen to see impact evidence of partnership working that demonstrates its value. We know that schools will want to direct resources effectively and by working out success indicators this can be demonstrated and act as an inspiration to others. Successful activities already taking place include:

### *Leadership*

- Taking an active role on the governing body of a school
- Providing senior and strategic leadership support

### *Teaching*

- Participating in initiatives with national impact, such as training STEM or MFL teachers, and providing CPD
- Participating in Teaching School Alliances
- Seconding STEM and MFL teachers

### *Curriculum*

- Providing teaching and curriculum support
- Sharing curriculum materials and resources

### *School improvement*

- Facilitating direct support targeted at the recipient school's specific needs
- Providing academic mentoring and sharing best practice

## Sponsor or establish a school

You could

- Sponsor a school, or work with others as a co-sponsor
- Work with an established multi-academy trust (MAT)
- Establish a free school

A number of independent schools are already sponsoring schools or have set up free schools. If you are interested in exploring this, we can put you in touch with them so that you can learn from their experience.

### **How will we support you?**

We will work closely with you to develop your activities and broker partnerships with state schools, through our dedicated support team, helping to navigate the various processes and overcome any barriers you are facing where possible. In particular, we plan to:

- Bring providers and key stakeholders together to share good practice and key information
- Develop a community of practice, enabling greater peer-to-peer networking
- Further develop the evidence base of what works and put in place a robust evaluation framework

To find out more contact the System Partnerships Unit at the Department for Education

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