

Excellence through cultivating character, sharing talents and pursuing innovation



The Academy for Character and Excellence

Who are we?

We are a small Trust of four schools – **Collaton St Mary Church of England Primary, Paignton; Galmpton Church of England School, Brixham; Redhills Primary School, Exeter; and Shaldon Primary School, Shaldon** forming **The Academy for Character and Excellence**.

The Academy for Character and Excellence promotes character education – a values-led approach to education. The purpose of the Trust is to develop approaches that will result in excellence in character education. The four schools believe in providing an exciting and innovative curriculum as well as ensuring that our children achieve excellent academic results. We are aspirational for our pupils wanting them to flourish, to achieve a sense of purpose, to lead a full life and to thrive.

We are passionate about schools retaining their own identity through context. Each of our schools is committed to strong links within their community and use these links as a basis for their curriculum. We all share a commitment to excellence and ensuring our children individually flourish, but recognise that our school contexts are different.

We are not a corporate Trust but consider ourselves a family of schools. We give opportunities for our staff to work together through Trust Improvement Groups. It is exciting to see these developing and mutually supportive relationships growing across the Trust. When you read about our four schools, hopefully you will see that links with the local community are at the heart of our Trust. <http://www.acexcellence.co.uk>

Our Trust Leadership Team

The Trust is headed up by our CEO, Cheryl Weyman who is local to the area. She is a keen sea kayaker and is a member of the Totnes Canoe Club. Cheryl is a National Leader of Education having taken Shaldon Primary School to Ofsted Outstanding. Cheryl is passionate about the importance of an education which develops not only our children's academic successes, but their personal attributes. She is keen for the children to be at the heart of the local community and to know the difference they can make, not only to themselves, but to the world around them.

She is supported by Claire Platt, Director of Education and formerly Executive Headteacher of Collaton St Mary and Galmpton; Mark Cornfield Director of Finance and Operations; and Rozel Ridgway, Trust Business Manager.

Our Trust Directors

We have a strong board of directors which is chaired by Terry Falcao, partner and head of the employment law team at Stephens Scown solicitors. Terry is our chair and director of community partnerships. Joining him on the board is Simon Girling, director of HR; Matthew Cousins, director of Premises and Health and Safety; Anneliese Slader, director of Safeguarding; Philip Mantell director of Ethos and Distinctiveness and Jackie Gater director of Curriculum and Standards. The team will soon be joined by Roger Willoughby, director of Finance.

<http://www.acexcellence.co.uk/Board-of-Directors>

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Our Schools

Collaton St Mary Church of England Primary School (Ofsted Good)

<https://collaton-st-mary.eschools.co.uk/website>

Collaton St Mary Primary School is on the western edge of Paignton, just 10 minutes' drive from St. John's. We are an Outstanding Church School (SIAMS Sept 2016) which focuses on looking at the needs of the individual and unique child which is reflected in our current outcomes.

The school achieved the highest results in Torbay in 2017. In the Autumn term, we joined The Academy for Character and Excellence benefiting from this greatly as we had already formed strong links with the other schools.

Collaton St Mary Primary School is a values-led school which celebrates Aiming High, Showing Friendship, Being Determined and Inspiring Others. Our children are encouraged to develop a love of learning through the provision of a broad and exciting curriculum which engages the children from a very early age - with a golden thread of the children taking responsibility running through all the work that we do.

We are also extremely proud of our community links and our food initiatives which support the children to make healthier life choices, as well as giving them the experience and understanding of the process of farming and hospitality. We encourage character building through supporting our local community in a variety of projects including community lunches, gardening projects, civic awards, enterprise activities and Silver Readers. These links and initiatives are woven into our creative curriculum through our themed topics and outcomes which involve the whole community. We are constantly striving to develop and offer our children exciting new opportunities which includes the growth of our forest school and the addition of an outdoor cooking area (with a pizza oven) along with a local history/art link with a recently renovated mansion.

Galmpton Church of England Primary School (Ofsted Good)

<http://www.galmptonprimary.org.uk/>

Galmpton Primary is a single form entry Church of England Primary School within the historic village of Galmpton, on the outskirts of Brixham and only a 15 minute drive from St John's Primary School.

Galmpton VA Primary is an Outstanding Church school (SIAMs March 2017) that joined the Academy of Character and Excellence in the Autumn term of 2017. The school has been through a period of significant change and was identified by the Local Authority, Governors and leaders as requiring urgent improvement. During the last year, there has been rapid improvement in all areas resulting in much improved outcomes for all children. We were delighted to receive a judgement of 'good' from OFSTED in 2017 who recognised the school's drive for improvement and change. OFSTED also praised us for ensuring that, 'Staff morale is high. All staff, including several newly qualified teachers, feel valued and respond well to the guidance they receive from leaders.' Well-being for all continues to be a priority not just for our school, but across the Trust.

The school has benefited enormously from being a member of the Trust; we continue to be excited and inspired by the schools we work with and their Leadership teams.

Our Church school distinctiveness is the most important aspect of our school. Our Mission is to ensure every member of our community 'Achieves and Flourishes within God's Loving Arms'. We do this by ensuring our Ethos and values are evident and effectively communicated to all. Our Ethos values of Friendship, Forgiveness, Compassion, Peace and Trust are 'held' within our overarching Learning and Ethos Value of 'Taking Responsibility'.

We have been encouraging children and teachers to plan and deliver opportunities for Community engagement and we are currently seeking to become a 'Dementia Friendly' school by working with 'Purple Angels.' In this way, we hope to continue our Character Education work and instil a sense of responsibility in our children, not only for themselves, but for others in their local and wider community. As a Church school, and through our work around Character Education, we hope to instil in children the need to support and care for others, particularly those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Redhills Primary School (Ofsted Good)

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

Redhills Primary School is a vibrant urban community school on the edge of Exeter. We serve a diverse mix of families, including a higher than average percentage of children with English as an additional language.

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Redhills is well-regarded for its inclusive approach and excellent support provided for children and families. We were also proud to be chosen as the Best Primary School in Devon (Real Schools Guide 2017) awarded for our academic outcomes at the end of KS2.

The school has a real interest in global education, and we have recently been partnered with schools in Tanzania, Latvia and Italy. We very much see ourselves as a community school, and are currently engaged with local projects including working with Age UK in the Exwick area to develop inter-generational links as well as maintaining an allotment in the community plot.

Our projects for the 2018/2019 will include school leaders meeting with elderly citizens and co-creating a variety of craft projects for the children to participate in. Christmas letters will be sent to over 100 local residents who are at risk of not socialising over the holiday period and we will introduce community celebration days.

We are an inclusive learning community that is forward thinking, innovative and committed to ensuring that all of our children achieve excellence as happy, enthusiastic and purposeful learners.

We whole-heartedly believe that excellence can only be achieved together.

Shaldon Primary School (Ofsted Outstanding)

<http://www.shaldonprimary.org/>

Shaldon Primary School is an outstanding single form entry school located in Shaldon, which lies at the mouth of the River Teign in South Devon. Passion, determination, aspiration, friendship, responsibility, excellence – these are the values that are embedded in school life at Shaldon.

The curriculum has been designed by the school to make the most of the beautiful local environment. We engage in outdoor learning through our beach and forest school. Our children are given experiences to become artists, writers, scientists, geographers, historians and environmentalists. Currently, our children are working in partnership with local businesses to make the village plastic free. We also prioritise music, sport and the arts. The children have the chance to learn to sail and they engage in business enterprise projects. Engaging with experts and visits are an integral part of our curriculum. We have a genuine desire for pupils to make the very best of themselves.

Although we recognise that academic success is important, we also believe that for education to be successful, it must prepare children for life. To do this we wish to secure a passion for learning as well as an ability to think independently. Our desire is to develop the character of our pupils so that they are kind, respectful and responsible.

This rich curriculum and a focus on developing the whole child has resulted in national awards. The school won the Regional Character award in 2015, the Speaker's Award in 2017 and just recently it has been shortlisted as Primary School of the Year. We are most proud of our work with the elderly as we believe this not only develops attributes of kindness and compassion in our children, but it enhances the whole community.

Next Steps

We will be setting up both staff and parent briefings so we can start to build relationships. It is very important to us that you have the chance to ask questions, meet the team and start to feel part of The Academy for Character and Excellence family. We are very much looking forward to meeting you all and beginning our journey together.

Useful contacts

Any initial queries can be emailed to: Rozel Ridgway rozel.ridgway@acexcellence.co.uk and we will endeavour to answer your questions and queries as soon as possible.