

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

BEING THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES

TRUST NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1 2025



Wilfred Owen
Primary School



Market Drayton
Junior School



Greenacres
Primary School



St Mary's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Woodfield
Infant School



St George's
Junior School



Shropshire
Primary Partnership



Market Drayton
Infant & Nursery School

Collaboration • Aspirations • Respect • Positivity



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Our Vision

To be our best

- To give our young children the knowledge and skills they need to flourish, succeed and contribute to our world.
- Every learner inspired to live a remarkable life

BEING THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES

IN OUR WORLD

Why should we always aspire to be our best version?

How are we / the children being their best?

Sharing work, we have done that we are proud of.



Carla Whelan
CEO

As long as I can remember I have always been encouraged to be the best version of me, to continue to learn and to always then apply this in the best way. When I was at school there were times I didn't enjoy learning – I am a visual learner and not all my lessons were delivered in that way. So, I found that hard work. Yet my granddad once said 'they can never take learning away from you girl, so keep going, be your best and do good with it' it was always something that I had in my mind on those days it felt harder and part of the drive that made me become a teacher. So at Empower I love the fact we have the mottos:

**Choosetobekind
Togetherwehavegotthis**

These are important to me personally but for us a family, a team. We are the best version if we are working together, sharing and collaborating. Every child in our trust is as important as the other, one school fails – we all fail. So, I also feel proud of how our strategic leads share their expertise to support each other and help developments in each of our schools. It recently has been a real joy to meet with our new ANCHORING CHAMPIONS, a group that has been formed by Karen, our strategic lead, to share good practice in family liaison work and grow and develop our offer for our homes.

There has been so much achieved at Empower that I feel proud of in my first year, so much more we have planned to do and the EMPOWER 28 promises set us with a clear vision to drive this forward over the next few years.



BEING THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES



Sam Scott
Director of Education

For me, being the best version of myself means constantly growing and learning. I set goals to give myself direction and motivation, but I also embrace mistakes as valuable learning opportunities. Admitting when I don't know something or when I've made a mistake shows integrity and helps me grow. I love trying new things and staying curious - sometimes I have to push myself as it will take me out of my comfort zone. Right now, I'm making a wire fairy and using a new art app, which I'm really enjoying in my spare time. With my experience in education, I hope to work with others in our Trust to develop their skills, boost their confidence and inspire them.

In our trust and schools, we can continue to learn and grow together. By setting goals, learning from our mistakes, staying curious, being kind and empathetic and sharing our achievements, we can all strive to be the best versions of ourselves. Learning is a lifelong journey, and we are never too old to discover something new. This mindset helps me in both my personal and professional life and I believe it can help us all create a supportive and thriving community.



Rachel Butterfield
Trust SENCo

Working in schools in previous and current roles, curiosity has always been a key factor in helping me to build trusting relationships with children.

Taking time to be curious about how they are feeling; what they have experienced; what they need from me as an adult; and what their behaviour may be communicating is vital. Only then can we begin to truly identify and meet each child's needs.



BEING THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES



Michelle Harrington
Director of People
& Culture

Being the best version of myself means showing up as my authentic self and staying true to my personal values, goals, and ambitions as well as being aligned to, and able to contribute to the wider values and goals of the Trust. I am currently exploring a work-based apprenticeship which is a fantastic opportunity for me to continue my professional development and strive for excellence in my field. Setting clear, achievable goals has always given me direction and motivation, and I embrace these moments as opportunities to become more resilient, whilst recognising that learning from mistakes creates opportunities for growth. Having a naturally curious mindset, I really enjoy exploring new ideas and continuously learning, and this helps me stay engaged and innovative in my work.

I believe it's so important to celebrate and share achievements, both big and small wins, but also acknowledgment of effort. We are working to better facilitate these celebrations across the Trust, and to recognise effort and contribution both within the Shared Services Team and our school communities. By staying curious and empathetic, I strive to build strong relationships and create a positive impact in both my personal and professional life. Making connections, helping others and contributing to creating a supportive environment drives me to be the best version of myself every day.



Jess Shore
Trust Business
Administration Apprentice

Trying to be the best I can be is super important for living a meaningful life. It pushes me to grow, stay positive, and face challenges head-on. Plus, it's not just about me, it also inspires the people around me. I feel that when I'm at my best, it boosts the morale of my colleagues and it encourages them to strive for their goals, and creates a supportive environment. Making mistakes is part of the journey, teaching me valuable lessons and helping me improve. By learning from my mistakes, I get better at handling future challenges. Being kind and empathetic to others is a big priority for me because it helps build strong relationships and creates a positive environment. Sharing and celebrating achievements is also key, as it boosts confidence for myself and others. Constantly improving helps me hit my goals and makes me feel proud of my progress. Investing in myself is the best move for a brighter future.



Lucy Copson
Trust Administrator

For me being the best version of myself is about staying positive and always (well most of the time!) looking on the bright side of life, whilst learning from experiences. For me, it's also about setting an example for my twins, showing them the value of resilience and kindness.

I am proud to be part of Empower Trust and being on my own learning journey, I'm excited to bring new skills and ideas to our work.

BEING THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES



Leon Johnston
Trust Estates
Apprentice

Aspiring to be the best version of ourselves is a journey of continuous growth and self-improvement. It is about setting clear, achievable goals that give us direction and motivation. By embracing our mistakes as learning opportunities, we grow stronger and wiser. Staying curious fuels our desire for continuous learning and discovery, while treating others with kindness and empathy builds strong relationships and a positive environment. Sharing our achievements not only boosts our confidence but also inspires others to strive for their best.



Ria Westwood
Director of Finance

This half term I have been fortunate to attend conferences and network with peers from other trusts. It is always interesting to hear what other MAT's are doing and the issues they are facing. Sharing best practices with others not only helps you refine your own skills but also fosters a collaborative environment and help to build positive relationships.

Finance have announced the move to a new budget planning tool Anago. Anago will provide us with a forecasting tool which follows the process of budget planning and monitoring. This will allow resource allocation, highlight efficiencies and track financial performance with greater accuracy. Whilst this term has presented challenges in budget monitoring, both the finance team and staff in schools have found a 'work around' that has allowed us to continue to provide quality forecasts to stakeholders. By addressing these issues and finding ways to overcome them, we have committed to improvement and worked collaboratively to achieve our shared aims.



Becky Seabury
Finance Officer

This half term has been particularly challenging for me in my personal life however returning to work has given me a chance to start to find my feet and feel a little more like myself. On my return to work I have focussed on my Thrive goals, these goals have given me a clear direction enabling me to channel my energy into productive and meaningful tasks.

Now that I have achieved these goals I am looking ahead to my next review where I can reflect on my progress and identify areas for further development, setting objectives to help my professional growth moving forwards.



St Mary's

CE Primary & Nursery School

Where Every Day Matters & Everyone Counts

During our workshop we worked with Caroline Greaney from  **RightPath** We discussed gender stereotypes around boys' and girls' games and job roles. We explored why we might have these gender stereotypes and the importance of breaking stereotypes. In addition to this, we explored patriarchy and the history around this. Also, what objectification means and the age restrictions of social media apps. Discussing the pros and cons of using social media. Both classes engaged well in the workshop and asked sensible questions to find out more.



Years 5 and 6 have been creating posters to back up messages about climate change they have learnt in previous geography units. We looked at protest poster examples and discussed some important vocabulary involved. Then we built up the skill of collaging before trying our own posters. Some of their slogans and sketches were impressive and two year 6 girls even came up with a chant while they were working:



New Enrichment Group – ECO Club

In ECO Club we talked about how we can do lots of things to help the environment we live in. We discussed how we can be mindful of how much energy we use, switching off lights and unused electronics, reducing food waste, reducing water waste by turning taps off when brushing our teeth and recycling and reusing things around school and home. The children made posters to inform others too.



Resilience Reps

Our children really enjoyed working with Paul from Youth Shoots!! They learnt important information about mental wellbeing, online safety, personal space and coping strategies. Here are some of the things the children had to say about being a resilience rep

I help people when they are upset or need someone to play with

"I help other children deal with their emotions"

"I love being a resilience rep because I can help others"



I am someone who is relentlessly committed to growth, progress, and making the most of every opportunity life offers. Determined to always be better, I approach challenges with a solution-focused mindset, knowing that every obstacle is simply an opportunity in disguise. I strive to see the positives, even when circumstances may not be ideal, because I believe that positivity fuels progress and lifts the spirits of everyone around me.

Time is one of my most valuable assets, and I treat it with the utmost respect—by managing it wisely, making every moment count, and prioritising what truly matters. I believe that laughter, kindness, and genuine connections with people are what make life rich and meaningful. I aim to nurture these connections, creating spaces where people feel valued, supported, and heard.

Gratitude is the cornerstone of my daily practice. I make it a point to acknowledge what I am thankful for, no matter how small, because it grounds me in the present moment and helps me stay focused on the good. By cultivating a grateful mindset, I not only improve my own outlook but also encourage others to embrace a positive perspective, even in tough times.

With this mindset, I am dedicated to bringing light, encouragement, and understanding into every situation, and to offering my best to everyone I meet.



I try and be the best version of myself everyday! I love my job and it is an honour to be part of so many lives. The work we do in school really matters at every level and it is my job to be a role model. I would hope everyone would say I am more than willing to learn from my mistakes.

I don't get everything right but I am the first to hold my hands up and look for a way forward. I am lucky to have so many colleagues and families who support with this. We love to share everyone's achievements - in our Shining Lights worship, on our Facebook page and through our Certificates of Achievement from Mrs Whelan. It makes all the hard work worthwhile! We have a great team and lovely families here at St Peter's and it is lovely to know we are a part of Empower Trust who support us along the way.

How are we being our best?

SHARING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We celebrate successes in and out of school - if our football team does well, our Shining Lights or effort on TTRS.



LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

Making mistakes is a key part of learning (even our teachers make them too 😊)

BEING CURIOUS

We are encouraged to explore and ask questions about everything we do.



BEING KIND

Our school and Christian values both talk about kindness.

For Kindness Week, we hid stones around our local park in the hope that they would brighten someone's day.



Why should we always aspire to be our best version?

- It gives us the opportunity to find our purpose.
- It makes our existence meaningful.
- We can motivate and inspire others.



Next Term's theme is...

**'CHAMPIONS IN OUR
COMMUNITY'**

SUPPORTING OTHERS

We also support others by taking part in charity fundraising events.





Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Being the best version of ourselves

Why should we always aspire to be our best version? How are we/ the children being their best? Sharing work, we have done that we are proud of.

Across the school, children have been engaged in exciting opportunities that have enabled them to share new experiences. They were thrilled to experience a drumming workshop, led by Jo from DCP Drum. The children were curious as they set out to learn something new and were so excited to celebrate the success of their peers as they clapped and cheered when individuals performed to the class.



Alongside the fabulous whole school drumming workshop, the children have been aspiring to be amazing artists by taking part in the Market Drayton Calendar Art competition. Organised by long standing members of the community, children worked with volunteers to create art pieces for the month of February. The children were very proud of their pieces, showed resilience and being the best they can be.





Woodfield
Infant School
Kind • Responsible • Hardworking

Happily learning together.
Be kind, be responsible, be hardworking.
This is the Woodfield Way!

At Woodfield, everything that we do, centres around The Woodfield Way. It encourages everyone to strive to be the very best version of themselves every day. Positive noticing and celebration of actions and achievements, and support to reflect on choices, all come back to The Woodfield Way.

We want anyone, whether they are children, staff, parents, volunteers, governors or anyone else to feel that they are part of our Woodfield team. We expect that all members of our team will act in the way shown in our motto, being kind, being responsible and being hardworking.

Being kind features as first of our 'be' statements as everyone can do this with ease. As the saying goes, kindness costs nothing. Everyone can be kind and everyone can try to be just a little bit kinder each day.

We encourage all staff and children to be responsible and to set goals for themselves to self-improve, just like Martin & Marvin our Learning Jungle monkeys.. For staff, that might mean thinking about something that they would like to develop professionally through our Thrive approach to Performance Management. For the children, that might mean thinking about something that they can improve on next time, whether that is through their academic work or socially.

Our other Learning Jungle characters, Kelly the Koala and Albert the Armadillo, helps us all to remain curious and never stop asking questions and to get back up and try again when things don't go right first time.

We recognise that we don't always get things right, no one does, but that striving to be better next time that you are in that situation is what is important.



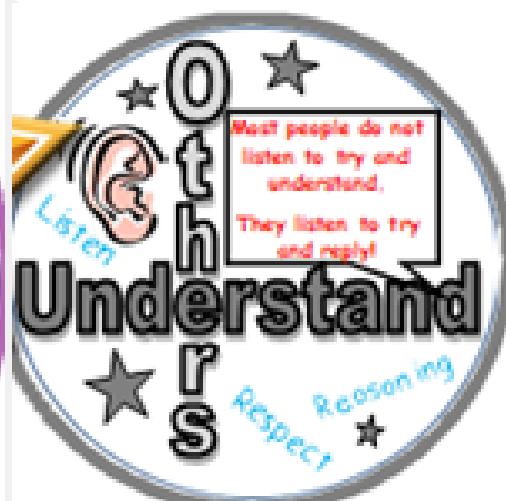
At Market Drayton Junior School all children are encouraged to aspire to be the very best that they can be.

In subjects such as Science we strive to raise the children's Cultural Capital to be aware of the world of science and technology that is woven into our daily lives. Activities like "A scientist just like me" during The Great School Science Share or

British Science Week, is designed to raise awareness of diversity in science -related professions and to provide illustrated examples of a wide range of science careers. The aim to enrich and enhance the children's life chances beyond their school life. The school has invited STEM ambassadors, parents and carers with science linked vocations into school to talk in assemblies with passion about their jobs and how they use STEM based subjects in their everyday work. Similarly, Shropshire Music Services show case their musical abilities in performances to engage and create a desire to potentially take up music lessons, as it can lead to a lifetime of enjoyment, creating and sharing music on a range of instruments. It takes just one spark to inspire a young mind and to open a whole new world of future.

Our school trips are designed to link to a range of curriculum areas providing children with the opportunities to have "hands on" experiences to make learning real. In Year 4, the children take a trip on the Sabrina boat along the River Severn during their rivers focus, whilst Year 3 have taken a step back in time to look at the work of archaeologists' unearthing Roman remains in Dewa, Chester. Lifting learning from the pages of their books and slides from flipcharts to being set in a real-world context.

Our Friday whole school Celebration Assembly acknowledges those children who have exceeded during the week in the fields of art, sport, music and academia. A member of each class is nominated for Star of the Week and their achievements are shared with the school community. The weekly certificates are linked to several powerful learning behaviours, such as Understanding Others, Push Yourself and Try New Things. These learning traits underpin our school ethos and help children to build resilience, perseverance and a healthy and robust work ethic, whilst taking on new experiences outside their comfort zone.





Shropshire

Primary Partnership

Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

Shropshire Primary Partnership: Exciting Developments and New Opportunities

We are thrilled to share some fantastic updates and opportunities available through the Shropshire Primary Partnership.

New SEND Courses

We are proud to introduce a range of new courses designed to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These courses include:

- **SEND: Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD):** Aimed at educators, parents, and professionals, this course provides an understanding of SPD, its impact on children, and effective strategies for support and intervention

New Collaborations with AmazingCPD and Reflections Play Therapy

Playful Connection – a therapeutic and attachment play based intervention for teachers and teaching assistants

Aims:

- **To have an understanding of how the nervous system impacts behaviour.**
- **To understand how therapeutic play can support the nervous system to bring about changes in behaviour.**

To be able to deliver a therapeutic play based intervention to support pupils struggling with challenging behaviour or emotional difficulties.

Courses with AmazingCPD

- 7 Strategies to Increase Creativity in Music through Technology: Innovative approaches to music education. Click here to book 🖱️ **7 Strategies to increase creativity**
- Exploring CAD to Enhance the Primary Curriculum: Bringing design and technology into the classroom. Click her to book 🖱️ **Exploring Computer Aided Design**
- Enhancing the Maths Curriculum: New methods to make maths engaging and fun. Click here to book 🖱️ **Enhancing 2025 Maths Curriculum**

Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

Our Initial Teacher Training (ITT) program is designed to equip future educators with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to inspire young learners. In collaboration with the University of Chester, we offer a one-year Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) program. This course includes:

- **School-Based Learning:** Trainees spend a minimum of two days per week in classrooms, gaining hands-on experience from the start
- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Covering subject knowledge, the Early Years and National Curriculum, and effective teaching strategies across all primary stages
- **Multiple Placements:** Trainees experience teaching in different key stages, ensuring a well-rounded training experience

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to engage with our community.

Together, we can empower every learner to reach their full potential!

Join us on this exciting journey of growth and excellence!

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

Do you know someone that would make an amazing teacher?

Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership are holding a 'Get into Teaching' recruitment event covering early years, primary and secondary phases. Please encourage them to come along to our recruitment event, for the opportunity to apply for an accredited full or part time initial teacher training course starting in September 2025.

Train to Teach with

www.shropshireprimarypartnership.co.uk



Shropshire
Primary Partnership

Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

2025 - 2026 INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING APPLICATIONS

NOW OPEN!



Information Sessions

Every Wednesday 5:00 - 6:00pm

Online - Email to book your place:

admin@spp.empowermat.co.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING WITH **STEP**?

Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership are holding a 'Get Into Teaching' Recruitment Event covering Early Years, Primary and Secondary phases

The event will provide you with all the information you need to help you decide if teaching is the career for you. The Initial Teacher Training leads for the four **STEP** providers will be available to answer any questions you may have.

3rd March 2025 - 4-7.00pm.

This event will take place via Microsoft Teams. Email the below to book your slot

10th March 2025 - 4-7.00pm.

This event will take place via Microsoft Teams. Email the below to book your slot

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GETTING INTO TEACHING - BOOK YOUR PLACE...



Severn Training and Schools Alliance: Primary and Early Years - Telford & Wrekin
To book, please email - stsa@taw.org.uk



Shropshire Primary Partnership: Primary and Early Years - Shropshire
To book, please email - admin@SPP.empowermat.co.uk



Salop Teaching Partnership: Secondary - Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
To book, please email - heather.brown@pri.318education.co.uk



Alliance of Leading Learning: Early Years, Primary and Secondary - Shropshire and Mid Wales
To book, please email - claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk



ANY QUESTIONS - PLEASE CONTACT INFO@STEPWM2.CO.UK

As a STEP partner we have access to fully funded workshops with The MTPT Project - for all new parents teachers returning to work following Maternity or Paternity leave.

Funded Opportunities with The MTPT project



Return to Work Workshops

For teachers, leaders and support staff returning from maternity, adoption or shared parental leave

Fully-funded for state school colleagues.
Workshops running throughout the academic year.



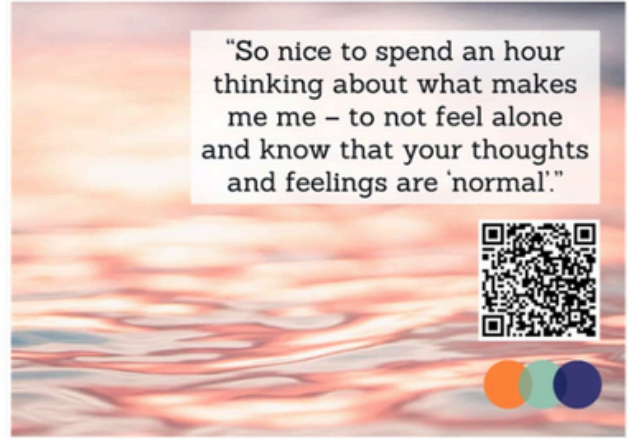
COVENTRY AND CENTRAL
WARWICKSHIRE
TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Haybridge
TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Star
Institute



Parental Leave Group Coaching

For teachers, leaders and support staff currently on maternity, adoption or shared parental leave

Fully-funded for state school colleagues.
Cohorts running throughout the academic year.



COVENTRY AND CENTRAL
WARWICKSHIRE
TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Haybridge
TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



Star
Institute

www.mtpt.org.uk

[@mtptproject](https://www.instagram.com/mtptproject)

To see all upcoming workshops and to book a place,
please click the below link:

eventbrite

The MTPT Project

 Eventbrite



Shropshire
Primary Partnership



Shropshire and Telford
Education Partnership

EMPOWERING EDUCATION



Empower

Multi-Academy Trust

Inspire • Empower • Achieve



#authenticallyours

#choosetobekind

#togetherwehavegotthis