

ASPIRE
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."
- Henry Ford**

A Message from Kate



Week commencing 9th June 2025

As we step into the final half term of the academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome to everyone across the Aspire family. It's set to be a long and eventful few weeks ahead, and I know your creativity and care for our communities will continue to shine through.

Looking forward, there's plenty to be excited about. We're gearing up for an inspiring series of school shows, residential trips, and a host of end-of-year celebrations, including saying farewell to all our Year sixes. From the classrooms to the stage and beyond, I am looking forward to hearing about all the special moments that will bring this year to a memorable close.

Aspire Connected

Stay connected with our Multi-Academy Trust! Follow us on LinkedIn for the latest updates, success stories, and educational insights.

Help us grow by liking, sharing, and engaging with our posts—let's celebrate our schools together! Click this link: [Aspire Multi-Academy Trust LinkedIn](#)



Embracing AI in Education

The DfE has endorsed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist teachers with tasks such as lesson planning, resource creation, feedback provision, and administrative duties. While AI offers promising tools to enhance efficiency, educators are advised to apply professional judgment to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of AI-generated content. The government is also investing in the development of advanced AI tools capable of interpreting handwritten work and providing feedback on geography maps.

In line with this national direction, we are currently developing a Trust-wide AI policy to support schools in the safe, ethical, and effective use of AI. This policy will provide clear guidance on responsibilities, data protection, and practical implementation, ensuring AI is used in a way that aligns with our educational values and priorities. Further updates and resources will be shared in due course.



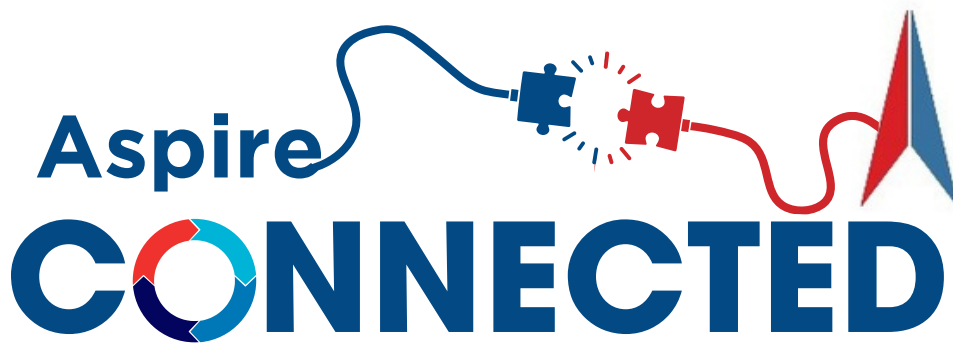
School Funding for 2025-26

The government has announced a £2.3 billion increase in core school funding for the 2025-26 financial year. Of this, £1 billion is specifically allocated to support the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) sector, reflecting a continued focus on inclusive education.

Funding through the mainstream schools National Funding Formula (NFF) will increase by 2.23% per pupil on average, compared to 2024-25. This ensures that every primary school will receive at least £4,955 per pupil.

In addition, a new Schools Budget Support Grant (SBSG) has been introduced to help schools manage the costs associated with the recently announced 4% teachers' pay award. While we welcome these announcements and the recognition of the pressures schools face, financial challenges remain significant. It is more important than ever that we continue to explore smart ways of working, drive efficiencies, and make the most of every pound to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils.





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Celebrating CIF Success Across Our Trust

We are delighted to share that two of our schools have been successful in securing funding through the latest round of Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bids 2025/2026.



Langar C of E Primary School has been awarded funding for a Boiler Replacement, a vital investment that will ensure a warm, energy-efficient, and reliable heating system to support the comfort and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

Oak Tree Primary & Nursery School has secured funding for Safeguarding Works, which will enable significant improvements to site security and access control. These upgrades reflect our ongoing commitment to creating safe, secure, and nurturing environments where all children can thrive.

These outcomes are a testament to the collaborative efforts of our school leaders, Trust estates team, and our valued partners at MAC Construction Consultants, whose expert guidance and strategic input played a key role in developing robust bids.

While we celebrate these successes, we also recognise that this year's CIF round was once again highly competitive, and not all our submitted bids were successful. We understand the disappointment this brings, particularly when the projects reflect genuine need. Please be assured that we will be reviewing feedback carefully and submitting appeals where appropriate. We remain committed to pursuing every available opportunity to secure the investment our schools need and deserve.

Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritise high-need projects across the Trust, supported by condition surveys and our evolving estates strategy. Our focus remains firmly on ensuring safe, sustainable, and high-quality learning environments for every child across our family of schools.

Curriculum and Assessment Review: Aiming for Inclusive Excellence

The ongoing Curriculum and Assessment Review, led by Professor Becky Francis, has released its interim findings. The review emphasises key areas including: ensuring high standards for all pupils, addressing subject-specific challenges, and responding to social and technological changes. The review states that while the current National Curriculum has strengths, it often delivers 'high standards for some' rather than

'high standards for all,' particularly affecting students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The next phase will delve deeper into these areas, aiming to evolve the curriculum to better serve every learner.

We will ensure school leaders are kept updated and informed as the review progresses, enabling timely reflection at school and trust level.



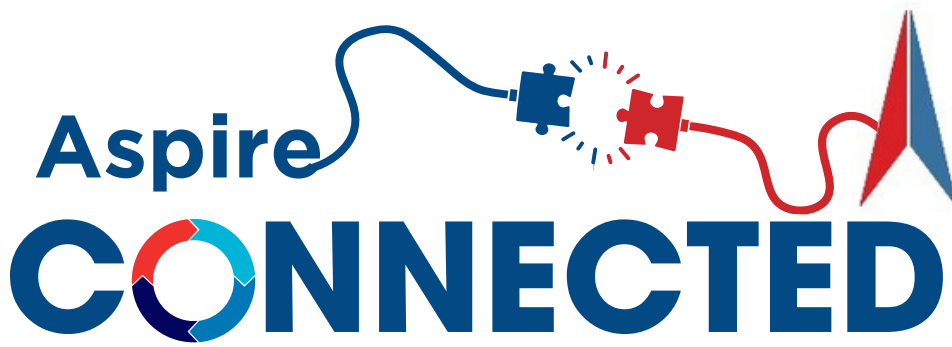
Sir John Sherbrooke Ofsted Success

We are delighted to share that our Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School in Calverton has received a highly positive outcome in its recent Ofsted inspection conducted on 19-20 March 2025. The inspection confirmed that the school has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.

The report commended the school for its high expectations and the positive impact of its 'Take Care' values which are evident in daily school life. Pupils are described as "welcoming, polite and respectful," taking pride in their work and achievements. The school's commitment to personal development is also highlighted, with pupils gaining a mature appreciation of respect, equality, and difference, preparing them well to be active citizens both now and in the future.

For more details, you can read the full Ofsted report here: ([Ofsted](#)).





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Langar C of E Primary

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We are also incredibly proud to share that Langar Church of England Primary School has been rated excellent in its recent 2025 SIAMS inspection. This outstanding outcome is a testament to the dedication and hard work of pupils, staff, and governors, all of whom live out the Christian values every day.

The report praised the school's deeply embedded Christian vision, which "promotes kindness, gratitude and a passion for learning," and creates a nurturing environment where everyone can flourish. It also highlighted how "pupils and staff are known and nurtured as individuals" and that they "live out the vision through taking care of each other." These powerful statements from the report perfectly capture the heart of our school community and the positive, inclusive culture that inspires everyone at Langar to be their best selves.

You can read the full SIAMS report on the schools website here: [Langar SIAMS](#)



Exciting Media Spotlight!

We're delighted to share that Central News recently visited Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Primary School to film a segment on religious education. As part of the coverage, pupils shared their thoughtful and insightful views on how RE shapes their understanding of the world around them. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the importance of nurturing young voices and how the school's inclusive approach to RE supports personal growth and spiritual development. Click the link below to see in full.

[CEN CLIP ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EAST LQ COMP.mp4](#)



Sporting Success at Gunthorpe – A Month of Achievement and Team Spirit

May was a fantastic month for sport at Gunthorpe, with pupils achieving great success across a range of events:

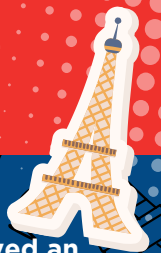
The Year 5/6 football team secured an impressive 8-3 victory in a match against Orston, showcasing both skill and teamwork.

Children from Years 3 to 6 also competed in the Carnarvon Cross Country event, with many finishing in the top 20 – a fantastic result in a highly competitive field.

Meanwhile, Junior pupils took part in a cricket festival at Flintham Cricket Club and performed brilliantly, qualifying for three upcoming finals: Junior Girls, Mixed Year 3/4, and Mixed Year 5/6. These finals will take place later in the summer term, we wish all our teams the very best. Throughout every event, the children embodied Gunthorpe's Christian values of friendship, determination, and service. Well done to all who took part – a true team effort to be proud of!



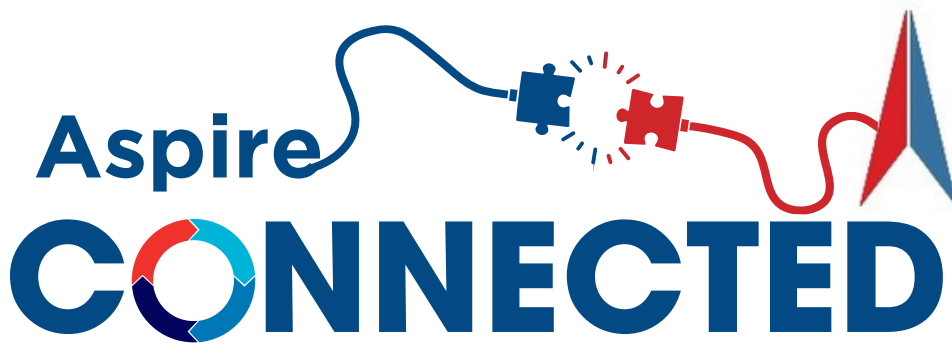
Gunthorpe also received a certificate from FFT this week, saying they are in the top 10% of all FFT Primary schools for their Spring Term attendance. Well done to all involved, what a credit you are to your school community!



Aspire International! - Winthorpe Primary School

Winthorpe Pupils Explore Paris! Year 5 and 6 pupils from Winthorpe Primary School recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Paris, France, fully packed with adventure, culture, and magical memories. After travelling via the train and the Eurotunnel from Newark, the children spent a few incredible days at Disneyland Paris, where they braved rides, met Disney characters, and soaked up the magic before taking in some of the city's famous landmarks, including a visit to the Eiffel Tower, where they admired its impressive structure and enjoyed the atmosphere of the bustling capital. For many pupils, it was their first time abroad, an experience they'll never forget.

A huge and heartfelt thank you goes to the staff team at Winthorpe both those holding the fort and those leading the trip, who were nothing short of epic. Their enthusiasm, patience, inspiration, care and dedication made the entire trip possible and ensured every child had a safe, joyful, and truly memorable adventure.



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St Peter's East Bridgford

As part of our Church school calendar of EXPERIENCE activities. The KS1 & KS2 children took part in EXPERIENCE: After Easter. The children rotated around 4 activities:

The Trinity – making a three stringed friendship bracelet to remind all about the Trinity; The Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

Ascension –the belief that Jesus, after resurrection, was taken up into heaven.
*See the bubbles photograph of awe and wonder.

Pentecost – celebrating 50 days after Easter, making the descent of the Holy Spirit. Each child created an image in plasticine of what they were thankful for.

Fruit of the Spirit – 9 characteristics of Christian life; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and self-control. Each child took home a seed in a pot to try and grow (faith).

Thank you to all our wonderful church volunteers for your time, preparing and delivery. Please see Our [Distinctively Christian Church School Webpage](#).



Celebrating Volunteers' – Thank You to Our Incredible Governors

As highlighted by Nottinghamshire Governor Services this past week, Volunteers' Week (2nd-8th June 2025) is a time to recognise and celebrate the vital contribution of volunteer school governors across the country. With over 250,000 individuals giving their time and expertise to schools nationwide, governors represent the largest volunteer force in education.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to all our governors across the Aspire Multi-Academy Trust. Across our eight schools, your commitment, wisdom, and support make a real difference every day. You help shape strategy, hold our schools to account, and champion the needs of children and communities—often behind the scenes, but always with great dedication.



This is a perfect moment for us to say: we see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you.

As Volunteers' Week culminates in The Big Help Out (7th-9th June), we encourage our school communities to reflect on the power of volunteering and the unique role governors play in supporting education.

To all our governors—thank you for everything you do. You are truly valued.

Together, We Make Aspire

As we begin the final half term of the school year, we want to celebrate you, our incredible staff across the Aspire family. Everything we achieve is because of your passion, teamwork, and the care you show every single day. Aspire thrives because we lift each other up, work as one, and never lose sight of why we're here: to make a difference.

You are the heart of our Trust. Whether you're in the classroom, the office, the kitchen, or out on the playground and our estates, you bring our *Take Care* values to life. You care deeply, you support each other, and you go above and beyond for our children. That's what makes Aspire such a special place to be, YOU! and for that we cannot thank you enough. You inspire us everyday!

If there's something you'd love to share or think we should know—an idea, a moment of magic, or something we can do better—please tell us at office@aspire-mat.co.uk.

Let's finish the year as we started: strong, united, and proud of all we do together.

