

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### Introduction

The application is submitted by the Active Learning Trust (ALT). ALT brings together experienced and successful practitioners who share a collective belief in the effectiveness of school improvement, the primacy of performance management, and the potential of new technology to enhance learning.

### The Trust's vision

This is to maximise our impact at school level, both with schools in need of significant improvement and with those that are already outstanding (especially with outstanding leadership and/or attainment) and that have a desire to develop and use their expertise to support others. We currently run schools, full details of which are provided in main application. As can be seen there, there have been significant improvements in our schools during their time with the Trust.

### Our knowledge and experience

We have an excellent relationship with Cambridgeshire Local Authority. For example, our senior leaders play their full part in the Cambridgeshire Primary and Secondary Heads Associations, the Special Heads Association, and Locality Heads meetings. We also engage directly with local representatives at district and county level.

We also have a proven and successful track record in opening a new area special school in the area: Highfield Littleport Academy which will open in September 2017. This academy will play a lead role in opening the new school at Alconbury. Our management of the preparation for the opening of Highfield Littleport Academy is an example of our successful experience in managing the buildings and personnel aspects of a new school through the ALT's central team. Also, we already have in the Trust a 120 place area special school: Highfield Ely Academy which is the same model as Highfield Littleport Academy.

### Our Vision for The New School

Our school will provide a supportive, safe, secure, nurturing and rich environment that ensures the best possible progress for all our pupils. Emphasis will be placed on making all pupils feel supported in their learning; staff will achieve this by ensuring that the school day is a positive, rewarding and enjoyable experience for every pupil. Through setting appropriate challenges and celebrating achievement, both within class and as a whole school, we will make every pupil a confident and inquisitive learner. As pupils progress through the school, increasing emphasis will be placed on pupils taking responsibility for their own work. By the time pupils leave our school, we will aim for them to be independent, confident, happy learners who have been challenged, stretched according to their ability, and are ready to take on their next challenge.

Key elements of our vision will be:

- Engagement with the local community
- Professional engagement

- Working with children and young people, parents/carers and families
- Post 16 provision
- Ongoing improvement
- Meeting children's individual needs, including safeguarding.

### Education Plan

The curriculum at the school will be:

- Inclusive. At our school, all pupils will be provided with a challenging curriculum that is tailored to their individual needs.
- Broad, balanced and flexible. We recognise that all pupils are entitled to have full access to the Early Years Foundation Stage, National Curriculum and post 14 qualifications.
- Cumulative. Good quality planning, assessment and subject leadership will ensure that each pupil's work builds on previous learning and attainment and sits within the whole school context.
- Relational. Much of the learning at the school will be 'relational learning'. This means that pupils will be encouraged to secure their knowledge of new skills and learning in many real life situations, for example, using their maths skills during a shopping trip.
- Multi-agency. Excellent links will be established with a wide range of professionals from a variety of disciplines.
- Enriching. We recognise the logistical difficulties of providing our pupils with enrichment opportunities beyond the school day.

### Capacity and Capability

We will use and build on our significant experience of the setting up and planning of Highfield Littleport Academy where we have worked very successfully as a partner with the LA, the design/project team and external consultancies to deliver the new special school. We therefore have very current and relevant experience which will be invaluable in the setting up and operation of the new school. Our successful involvement with Highfield Littleport Academy and Highfield Ely Academy has led to their success as shown by successful OfSTED outcomes and impressive attainment/progress data.

We will draw upon the experience and expertise of David Bateson, OBE, who is an ALT Director and Executive Principal of Ash Field Academy and Assistive Technology Assessment Centre in Leicester and the Carlton Digby Special School in Nottingham. Please see section E for more details.