



Where hearts and  
minds connect



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Impact Education Multi Academy Trust and Pennine Academies Yorkshire Partnering Plans Approved by the Department for Education**

Impact Education Multi Academy Trust and Pennine Academies Yorkshire are proud to announce that the Department of Education (DfE) has officially approved their application to partner and become one larger Multi Academy Trust.

The partnership which will go forward under the Impact Education Multi Academy Trust name will be one of the largest non-faith Trusts in West Yorkshire, with 18 Academies, 8,200 pupils, and over 1,200 staff.

Together Impact Education Multi Academy Trust's schools will benefit from:

- Improved outcomes and experience for their pupils
- Stronger expertise in SEND and school improvement
- Greater talent development through enhanced career and collaboration opportunities
- Improved resilience via shared resources and financial efficiencies
- Wider reach across Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees

Rooted in shared values of inclusivity, collaboration, and excellence, this is a natural next step and an exciting one for all involved.

Impact Education Multi Academy Trust and Pennine Academies Yorkshire will now begin working towards officially partnering in September 2026.

Mick Kay, Chief Executive Officer, Impact Education Multi Academy Trust said, "We are all absolutely thrilled to receive approval from the Department for Education to officially partner with Pennine Academies Yorkshire, who share our commitment to inclusive, high-quality education - particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs.

“This is an exciting time for our Trust and Academies and a fantastic opportunity for us to further strengthen our partnerships as a group of like-minded education providers by formalising the relationships between us.”

Michael Thorp, Chief Executive Officer, Pennine Academies Yorkshire said, “We have been working closely with Impact Education Multi Academy Trust for a number of years and have been exploring ways to leverage our strengths. By partnering under the Impact Education Multi Academy Trust brand, we aim to create even greater opportunities for all our pupils, staff, and communities.”

Jo Kaye, Chair of Trustees, Impact Education Multi Academy Trust said “This partnership marks a significant milestone for our Trust and the communities we serve. By joining forces, we are building on our shared values of inclusivity, collaboration, and excellence, and creating even greater opportunities for our pupils, staff, and families. Together, we will strengthen our commitment to high quality education and ensure every child benefits from the combined expertise and resources of our Academies. I am excited for the future and proud to be part of this next chapter.”

Deirdre Bailey, Chair of Trustees, Pennine Academies Trust, said “We are delighted that our partnership with Impact Education Multi Academy Trust has received approval from the Department for Education. This collaboration represents a powerful opportunity to unite our strengths, resources, and shared commitment to inclusive, high-quality education. By coming together, we will be able to offer even greater support to our pupils, staff, and communities across West Yorkshire. I am confident that this next chapter will bring lasting benefits and new possibilities for everyone involved, and I look forward to working closely with our colleagues to realise our shared vision for excellence.”

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