

# Trust Schools and business



‘We are determined to deliver the best possible education for all children, regardless of their background or circumstances. Trust Schools are vital to that vision.’

The Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP,  
the Prime Minister  
November 2006

## Why should a business get involved?

Becoming a Trust School partner offers businesses the opportunity to work with schools through a formal framework that unites the school and business in a sustainable collaboration.

There are many key benefits to businesses choosing to partner with a Trust School including **engaging with young people** and **potential future employees** and **developing relationships** that can **enhance long-term brand recognition**.



‘Microsoft is supporting Trust Schools as we see them as a natural way to ensure appropriate business involvement in education. In Microsoft's case they are an opportunity to demonstrate how technology can support the process of teaching and learning as well helping students acquire the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century knowledge based economy.’

**Stephen Uden,**  
Head of Citizenship,  
Microsoft Public Sector

### What is a Trust School?

A Trust School is a state-funded school supported by a charitable trust. The charitable trust is made up of a range of external partners that can include businesses, charities, universities and colleges. The Trust appoints governors to the school governing body and supports the school in a variety of ways to provide new opportunities for young people. Trust Schools capture the energy, enthusiasm and fresh-thinking of their partners for long-term benefit, not just short-term impact.

### Why should a business get involved?

Key benefits to businesses choosing to partner with a Trust School include:

- Opportunities to engage in your local community, sharing expertise and skills with local schools
- Engaging with young people and potential employees of the future
- Opportunities to be associated with raising educational standards and achievements
- Excellent media and corporate social responsibility opportunities associated with supporting the school
- Improved staff morale through demonstrable commitment to the local community
- Developing relationships that can enhance long-term brand recognition
- Involvement in a stable and enduring partnership that will benefit the school and future generations of learners
- Opportunities to put in place a coordinated approach to involvement with education
- Trust School partners, including businesses, are not required to make a financial contribution to a Trust School.

### How do businesses work with Trust Schools?

Each Trust School is unique. Businesses and schools work together to build a partnership to create the most effective Trust.

The level of involvement that a business has with a Trust School is dependent upon the needs of the school, and the resources available.

### Trust Schools – a practical example

A national construction company is the Trust School partner for a large secondary school. The business brings specific expertise in helping young people at the school develop skills in construction whilst broadening an understanding of the industry and addressing skills shortages in the wider community. As a Trust member the business also supports the school by appointing governors to the school governing body. Utilising the expertise of the business allows the school to develop their key strengths in teaching construction, technology and engineering.

### Our organisation is interested in finding out more about Trust Schools, what are the next steps?

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust will provide support in developing and establishing links between your business and a suitable school. You may already have an idea about which school(s) you want to work with and in what way or you may want advice on exploring the concept further. Either way, if you would like to find out more, please contact us.

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