

22nd September 2026

New name and identity for growing primary education trust

A new name and identity have been unveiled following the merger of Aspire Multi-Academy Trust and SHINE Multi-Academy Trust.

Aspire and Shine Education Trust, known as ASET, now brings together 15 primary schools across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The Trust's exclusively primary focus creates a strong network of like-minded school leaders and staff who can share expertise, develop opportunities and support one another while ensuring that each school retains its own distinctive identity.

Chief Executive Officer, Kate Watson said:

"Our number one priority will always be the education, wellbeing and future of every child in our schools.

"By bringing our schools together, we can offer greater collaboration, wider professional expertise and increased opportunities for children and staff. We are creating a connected family of primary schools, united by a shared commitment to helping every child flourish and fulfil their potential.

"Our new Trust vision 'Be Courageous. Be Caring. Become...' captures the values that will guide us. It is a promise to do the right thing for children, to care for one another and to create the conditions in which children and adults can flourish and become the very best versions of themselves."

ASET includes both Church of England and non-church primary schools. Each school will retain and celebrate its own character, history and relationship with its local community, while benefiting from the strength and support of the wider Trust.

Chair of Trustees Peter Golightly said:

"Our schools serve wonderfully diverse communities, but they are united by a clear purpose: putting children at the heart of everything they do.

"We value the individual identity of every school and the contribution of every member of staff. Together, we will provide excellent education within welcoming, nurturing and inclusive school communities where every child is known, valued and supported."

The Trust's new name and visual identity reflect the shared heritage of Aspire and Shine and mark the beginning of the next stage of their work together.