



**Vine**  
+ Diocese of Chelmsford  
Vine Schools Trust





**I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit**

JOHN 15:5



## CEO's Welcome

Welcome to the Vine Schools Trust. We are a Multi-Academy Trust created by the Diocese of Chelmsford. We are a supportive family of primary schools located throughout Essex that believes in delivering exemplary primary education, developing links with local communities and growing Christian character.

As CEO, I am incredibly proud of our schools. As a Trust, we are always keen to celebrate their individuality, creativity and further development.

*Emma Wigmore*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



## Our Trust

Established in October 2013 by the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education, the Vine Schools Trust is an independent not-for-profit company consisting of a family of primary schools across Essex.

As a Multi-Academy Trust, our family of schools are operated by a Board of Trustees and Trust Members, who strive to ensure that every academy within the Trust is performing well and delivering a high standard of education.

Our Trust Members are the conscience of our organisation. They appoint our Board of Directors and ensure that the visions and values of our Trust are upheld. They are also responsible for monitoring the academies and managing our central services.

We are passionate about school improvement and delivering high quality teaching and learning in all our schools. We want our children to have the best possible experience as they grow into confident learners with a strong sense of morality and values.

If you have any questions, particularly if you are a leader or a governor in a school that may be interested in finding out more about what it means to join Vine Schools Trust, please do get in touch.





# Our Schools

We have been building our family of schools since 2013 and we are very proud of everything we have achieved together as a Multi-Academy Trust so far. Each of our schools has their own unique identity, and as a Trust we are dedicated to ensuring this is maintained. We form a strong bond with our schools right from the start, so we can best understand the needs of their pupils, staff and whole school community.



Belchamp St. Paul  
Church of England  
Primary School



Bulphan Church of  
England Primary School



Colne Engaine  
Church of England  
Primary School



Great Clacton Church of  
England Junior School



Howbridge Church of  
England Junior School



Latchingdon Church of  
England Primary School



Mistley Norman Church  
of England Primary  
School and Nursery



Orsett Church of  
England Primary School



Ridgewell Church of  
England Primary School



Rivenhall Church of  
England Primary School



Rolph Church of  
England Primary School



Southminster Church of  
England Primary School



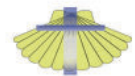
St. Andrew's Church of  
England Primary School



St Andrew's Great  
Yeldham Church of  
England Primary School



St Cedd's Church of  
England Primary School



St James Church  
of England Primary  
School Colchester



St James Church  
of England Primary  
School Harlow



St Margaret's Church of  
England Primary School



St Nicholas Church of  
England Primary School



St Osyth Church of  
England Primary School



Two Village Church of  
England Primary School



William Martin  
Church of England  
Junior School



William Martin Church  
of England Infant School



Empowering  
all to flourish

Developing  
faith, rooted  
in God's love

Playing our  
part in the  
community

Delivering  
an ambitious  
curriculum

Celebrating  
uniqueness

# Vision & Values

Like branches on the vine and members of one family, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.

# Our Governance

The **Vine Schools Trust Directors** are a core group of people with a proven track record of school improvement and experience that is relevant to making the Trust a success. They are responsible for our strategic direction, they are accountable for the academies and they are required to report to the Secretary of State. The Vine Board has overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Trust.

Our **Local School Boards** are a vital part of our framework, as they are the key strategic decision makers in our academies. They are responsible for ensuring that the school maintains a high standard of performance and that there is access to the necessary resources to ensure the children are receiving an excellent education. Each Board oversees the day-to-day running of our schools and the Scheme of Delegation is used to implement an effective decision-making process. If a school is not performing to a standard that we expect, delegated responsibilities may be withdrawn as an emergency measure until the school reaches a state of stability.

Our **Community Boards** are groups that have responsibilities delegated to them from the directors. They work closely with our Local School Boards, but with a focus on the ethos of our schools, fostering meaningful links with our communities and establishing a relationship with local churches.



**Mike Ferguson**  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Mike Ferguson originally qualified as a Chartered Electrical Engineer before realising his real passion for People Development – primarily in the areas of management and leadership. He has practised as a Business Psychologist for over 30 years.



**Charlotte Little**  
VICE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Charlotte Little qualified at Canterbury Christchurch University and has over 10 years of Human Resources experience, having led a region with several thousand employees.

Charlotte recently completed both an MA in Leadership and Management, and a Post Graduate Certificate of Corporate Governance. Charlotte brings extensive experience and expertise in Human Resources to her role as Vice Chair of Trustees.



**Emma Wigmore**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Emma Wigmore is an accomplished teacher with over twenty years' experience. She has been Headteacher for nine years and Executive Headteacher for the last four years.

Emma has a great track record of consistently improving underperforming schools. She is passionate about school-to-school support and has further developed an effective 'hub' model, which has led to significant improvements for all schools involved.

As CEO, Emma Wigmore strives to be ambitious for our schools, our children and our staff. She consistently asks, "Are we making a difference to the lives of the children we serve?"

Emma believes in listening first and then leading. She spent much of her early career teaching children from some of the most vulnerable families in the East London boroughs. She understands the importance of putting the needs of the children at the centre of every decision made for the Trust.

Over the course of two years, Emma has helped reduce the number of 'At Risk' schools in the Trust from 12 to just one. This is an achievement that she attributes to her 22 years of experience as a primary school leader.

As an active, positive and supportive leader, Emma is ambitious for our schools and is always focused on achieving the best for everyone within the Vine Schools Trust.

# Become a Trust School

When you join the Vine Schools Trust your school becomes a part of our family. We are dedicated to creating a supportive and collaborative environment where schools can grow, learn, and thrive. Together, we can create new opportunities for our pupils and strengthen their education experience.

- We have extensive experience in the academy conversion process
- We have built relationships and a reputation with the DFE, RSC EFA and Teaching Schools
- Our Trust has the benefit of economies of scale in procurement of goods and services
- The Vine Schools Trust has a skilled professional central team who care

## Our Core Offer:

- Access to a **collaboration network** between schools to share best practice
- Decisive **operational guidance** and advice whilst maintaining the integrity and independence of your school
- Dedicated **School Improvement Leader** to work directly with and support Headteachers
- Diocese of Chelmsford SLA **high quality school improvement support** for those requiring rapid improvement and those aspiring to become 'Outstanding'
- **Financial support** including strategic planning, compliance, VAT returns and helpdesk services
- **Human resources**, legal, facilities and health and safety services
- **Training and development opportunities** for Headteachers and their staff
- A wide range of **innovative curriculum opportunities** including the development of excellent RE teaching





As the Vine Schools Trust continues to grow, we very much look forward to welcoming more schools to join us in the future. Please contact our Directors to discuss potential options;

01245 208755 | [admin@dcvst.org](mailto:admin@dcvst.org) | [www.dcvst.org](http://www.dcvst.org)

## Testimonials

"I applied to join the Vine Schools Trust in 2019 because their vision for education echoed my vision. Since joining, I have realised there is so much to benefit from, we are part of a real community. In education, we are constantly facing challenges of one kind or another and for a school needing to make significant and wide-ranging improvements, being part of a Trust with a strong school improvement team is extremely reassuring and helpful.

The Trust supports all aspects of the running of our schools (finance, premises, HR, training, etc) whilst managing to maintain the individuality, ethos and context of each school. This was another thing that was really important to me when I joined."

### Lisa Dale

HEADTEACHER AT HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

"The Vine Trust ensures that everyone is supported and valued within our Vine Family. We have access to high-quality CPD opportunities, excellent school-improvement resources and a strong network between local Vine schools as well as within the wider Trust.

As a Headteacher, it is great to be part of an academy where the CEO knows our schools and is in touch with us regularly – it adds a personal touch. As a Church of England Academy Trust, the vision for education is central to the values of the Vine. It is wonderful to be part of a Trust where children are firmly at the heart of all that we do."

### Karen Jones

HEADTEACHER AT GREAT CLACTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL