

Pupil Premium Select Committee

Biography

Simon O'Keefe, Principal, Stour Academy Trust

From a federation of two schools in 2009 and conversion to a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in 2012, the Trust now has seven Primary schools across Kent and a further school opening in September 2018. The Trust's model is one of close collaboration and standardisation to ensure effective practice in all schools, enabling staff to work within clearly defined parameters that are common to teams across the MAT. Consequently, our strongest staff play a wider role across all our schools.

The Trust has a positive 'can do' culture that seeks out solutions to overcome barriers to learning. Since its establishment in 2012, the Trust continues to work closely with the Local Authority, supporting schools and sharing best practice, including presentations at various events.

The Trust is featured in the DFE's publication 'Multi-academy Trusts – Good Practice Guidance and Expectations for Growth' and recognised as one of the highest performing MATs nationally.