

Methodist Schools Committee: Annual Report

MC/24/58

Date of meeting	13-15 April 2024
Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Roger L Walton, Chair of the Methodist Schools Committee
Action required	Approval
Resolutions	58/1. The Council receives the report and commends it to the Conference.

Summary of content

Subject or aims	To provide an annual report to the Conference, through the Council, as directed by SO 343A(iii)
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Introduction

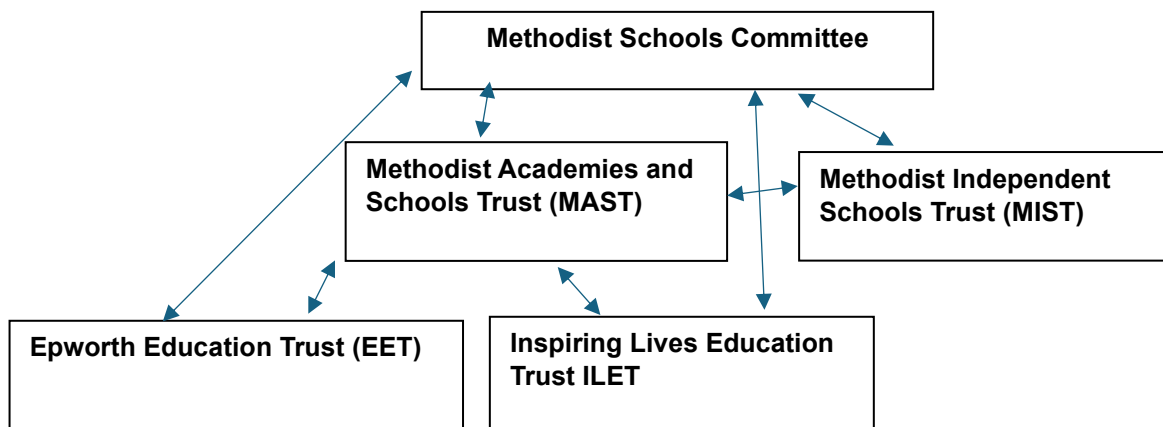
This year the report to the Conference appears in a different format. It reflects the commitments of **Transforming Lives**, the strategy adopted by the Conference in 2021. The first of those strategic commitments is to encourage and support Methodists to engage with schools in their locality. Much of the responsibility lies with churches and circuits and there are some excellent stories of positive and fruitful engagement. One exciting development, since the 2021 report, is the development of **Flourish Schools**. This is a place for prayer, practical advice and resources for those who want to connect with their local school. If you have not visited the site already, go to [What is Flourish Schools? \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk).

The other five strategic directions of development are specifically for Methodist schools and the Trusts that support them. They are:

- **Growing schools,**
- **offering excellent education,**
- **with a confident Methodist ethos,**
- **working together, and**
- **prioritising areas of need.**

Each of the component groups that make up Methodist Schools, therefore, reports its work under these headings. In year 3 of the strategy's expected 10-year life, we report significant progress, in the context of changing government education policy and practice.

For the sake of readers, the diagram below sets out an outline of the four trusts reporting through the Methodist Schools Committee. The double-headed arrows indicate the close and mutual working relationships between trusts. All the trusts seek to implement the strategy vision of *Transforming Lives* and to work with the other to achieve these objectives.



Executive Summary and Highlights

Against the backdrop of changing government policy, the continuing issues with school buildings, OFSTED and the cost-of-living crisis, our schools maintain their commitment to supporting local communities and delivering high quality learning and development. We celebrate:

- Five more schools joining Epworth Education Trust (EET) in 2024.
- Several non-Methodist Schools, including secondary state schools preparing to join the Methodist Schools family through the Inspiring Lives Trust when it is launched.
- OFSTED inspections consistently recognising the quality of our schools and our ability to help schools facing difficulties.
- The provision of high quality Professional Development for all school staff across all our schools.
- The launch of 'Epworth Worship Together' - an opportunity for children across the Trust to participate in collective worship together. The children create and deliver the worship through a video shared across the Trust. This has brought about a sense of community and the children find the worship guides them in their decision making and shapes their own spirituality.
- The development of a year-long course for Headteachers and Senior Leaders on 'Leadership in a Methodist School', focusing upon developing a strong Methodist ethos and foundation.
- Going partnerships between our independent schools and local state schools in their area.

We report a number of changes in personnel:

- Barbara Easton, the current Head of Service for MAST, will retire in August 2024 after many years of outstanding service to schools. Barbara's passion and tireless energy has created within our network of schools a great sense of belonging together and a belief that our engagement in schools is key part of our sharing in God's mission. The church owes her a great debt.
- The Revd Dr Calvin Samuel, Chair of Trustees at MIST, will be stepping down in the summer as he pursues an overseas posting. We thank him for his service and wish him well for this new chapter.
- Epworth Education Trust has a new Chair of Trustees, The Revd Stuart Ellis, who has brought his wealth of experience across a number of sectors to the role.
- At the end of last academic year MIST said farewell with great gratitude to two MIST Trustees, Barbara Easton and Lorna Cocking MBE, and to John Ingram (Chair of Governors at Kent College Pembury). This year we welcomed new Chairs at Kent College Pembury and Culford School (Jane Day and Mark Donougher) and appointed Claire Bentley to be the new Head at Culford. New Chaplains at Truro School (Helen Byrne), Queen's College, Taunton (Richard Kelly) and Kent College Pembury (Katie Osweiler) have joined us and have settled in very well.

The Conference should note:

In 2025/26, MAST will be close to the end of its funding, generously gifted by Southlands Methodist Trust and Westminster College, Oxford Trust. While supported by the connexional budget, MAST must urgently seek additional sources of funding in order to continue to exercise its responsibilities as Religious Provider for 66 schools on behalf of the Methodist Church.

Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST)

Growing new schools and extending the Methodist influence in education is largely being pursued through the growth of Academy Trusts. (See below). The work of MAST has been to support the Academy Trusts, by working on new articles, being engaged in discussion with the Department for Education (DfE), regional directors and ecumenical partners.

Offering excellent education

Methodist Schools in the state sector continue to offer a high-quality education to children across the country. MAST knows its schools well and supports them closely through a national network of experienced school leaders acting as RLEs (Regional Leaders in Education). The RLE acts as a school visitor, offering general support to the individual school and developing local networks to strengthen Methodist 'belonging'. The RLE takes on a particular role if the school is going through change, difficulty or expecting inspection. The benchmark for quality is independent inspection by Ofsted. Within this, Methodist and joint Methodist/Anglican schools perform very well, with a disproportionately high number of schools in the 'Good' and 'Outstanding' categories. With the demise of Local Education Authorities, schools buy in much of their educational support from local private providers. One gap which MAST is able to fill quite well is for governor training. Even in the world of academies, governors and trustees continue to play a critical role. There are significant opportunities here for Methodists from all sorts of backgrounds who have skills and interests which could serve schools and young people.

A Confident Methodist Ethos

Methodist schools in the state sector must have their religious ethos inspected by the Religious Provider. This is a legal requirement of Section 48 of the Education Act (2005). For Methodist and ecumenical school inspections, the Methodist Church works in a highly effective partnership with the Church of England. From September 2023, a new inspection framework was introduced, following extensive work, consultation and training. Within this, inspectors look at the application of the school's Christian vision in learning, the internal and outward-facing aspects of education, worship and religious education. The decision was taken to step away from expressing the judgement as a one-word grade, placing greater emphasis on the narrative report. At the top of the report, inspectors draw out the schools 'strengths' and 'areas for development'. The intention is that inspection should be much more contextual, judging what it means to be a church school, inspired by a theologically-rooted Christian vision, in each particular setting. Schools are generally positive about the change, saying that the new system allows the inspection to get to the heart of who they are and what they are trying to do. The 'downside' is that many regret the loss of the one-word judgement – within the world of SIAMS, Methodist and joint Methodist/Anglican schools were disproportionately 'Outstanding' and never less than 'Good'. Many heads prized an 'Outstanding' SIAMS judgement more than what Ofsted had to say because they felt this was their real purpose. In challenging areas, where it is difficult to get an 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement, the positive SIAMS badging was particularly appreciated. MAST's strengths also lie in its ethos and standards which is a part of its devolved statutory duties. The profile for Methodist Schools is strong; 95% of Methodist schools are judged OFSTED 'Good' or better. Since the introduction of the new framework in September 2023, our schools continue to shine through their SIAMS inspections. 100% are judged at least Good/J1; 55% of these are Outstanding/Excellent demonstrating their strong ethos and the flourishing of all.

One of MAST's main contributions to our schools is through training, particularly through our ongoing popular webinars. Core to these is the training to support our schools in their faith identity. The focus of training in 22/23 was Religious Education, a subject in difficulties nationally but flourishing in church schools because of the support it receives. In the school year 23/24 the focus is spirituality, and, in the following year, we plan an emphasis on worship. Schools are generally able to source curriculum training from other providers, but MAST does offer further training which meets our priorities as church schools – for example, in Christian leadership and some support for wellbeing, mental health and special educational needs.

In several communities, where the churches struggle or have closed, it is the Methodist school which is offering a spiritual hub to the community.

Working together

MAST continues to work closely with all the schools in the other Trusts, with the Connexional Team and with ecumenical partners. At the moment, for example, it is engaged with the Methodist Independent Schools Trust and the Academy Trust to develop a course on Christian leadership in schools.

Prioritising areas of need

The support MAST gives for wellbeing, mental health and SEND is noted above. Our academy Trusts are focused on geographical areas of need – where of course many of our schools are located.

Epworth Education Trust (EET - Multi-Academy Trust)

Growing new schools

EET had its growth strategy approved by the DfE in October 2022, shortly afterwards the government decided not to move forward with the Schools Bill which worked towards all schools moving in to an academy trust by 2030, schools slowed in their response to academisation as a result.

However, schools continue to be impressed with the work of EET and a number have shown interest in joining the Trust, including five who have formally voted to join the Trust (Bakewell, Leyland Infants, Leyland Juniors, Wheatley Lane and Hey with Zion). All schools will join the Trust in Spring 2024 but are already participating within the life of the Trust.

The Trust will follow its growth plan for strategic growth which sees a group of schools joining the Trust together followed by a time of consolidation before the next group of schools join. This will enable the organisation to remain strong and evolve as required for each stage of growth.

The Trust applied for a grant from the DfE and was successful. The grant will enable the Trust to implement some staffing and organisational changes prior to the new schools joining.

During times of growth, the DfE assess a Trust's health and capacity using the 'Trust Quality Descriptors', it is good to know that EET measures up to these descriptors and provides a strong offer to schools.

Offering excellent education

Ensuring an excellent educational offer remains the priority for the Trust and much of our time is spent delivering this. Since December 2022 four of the schools in Epworth (Bedford Hall, Wesley, Rosehill and Summerseat) have been inspected by Ofsted and they are all categorised as a 'Good' school. Summerseat was previously categorised as 'Inadequate' (Special Measures) by Ofsted, and they are now 'Good' (with 'Outstanding' for Personal Development) demonstrating a significant uplift in the quality of education offered. The Ofsted judgements provide external verification of the work of the Trust.

Delivering a strong Continuing Professional Development (CPD) remains a strength of the Trust and we continue to provide bespoke training to staff often created and delivered by Trust staff. A highlight of the CPD offered this year has been the pedagogy CPD that has been delivered to all staff across the Trust to support our commitment for every child to be taught by an excellent teacher.

Our annual conference complements this work and is an opportunity for staff across the Trust to come together and receive training from leading trainers from the educational community. This year the conference built upon the training received in the Methodist Schools International Conference with a focus upon equality and diversity, children's spirituality and sustainability.

The Trust has been innovative in designing its own models for teaching and learning and senior leadership. These models have supported the codifying of the skills required and delivering of bespoke coaching and development to schools, teachers and leaders in their pursuit of an excellent education for all.

In Spring 2024 the Trust will deliver the government flagship qualifications to staff within the Trust and wider Methodist schools. These are known as National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) and will be delivered to Headteachers and middle leaders over the next 18 months.

A confident Methodist ethos

During the Summer of 2023 the Trust embarked upon a review of its mission, vision and values. As a result, it launched a new vision statement '**To be a family of schools working together so all within our communities flourish and succeed**' which is built upon our core Bible verse of Jeremiah 17:7-8 '*But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a Tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit*'. This is lived out through the Trust's core values of Aspiration, Collaboration, Generosity, Inclusivity, Integrity and Wisdom.

Building upon this the Trust has developed its theological reasoning for its vision and values which is rooted within its Methodist foundation and builds upon the Methodist 10-year education strategy 'Transforming Lives'.

During the academic year, two schools have received SIAMS inspections of their Christian distinctiveness, and both received the highest grading of 'Excellent' demonstrating the Trust's commitment to ensuring a strong Methodist ethos within its schools. The pastoral care to children, their families and the wider community remains a strength as the schools live out their Methodist ethos and 'go where they are needed most'.

In September 2023 'Epworth Worship Together' was launched as an opportunity for children across the Trust to participate in collective worship together. The children create and deliver the worship through a video shared across the Trust. This has brought about a sense of community and the children find the worship guides them in their decision making and shapes their own spirituality.

Working together

EET recognises the importance of belonging to a wider family of Methodist educational establishments and firmly commits to partnership working where possible. It continues to play a key role in MAST supporting school improvement and pastoral care to schools in the North leading the work of the RLEs in this area. It supports the CPD offer of MAST through the shaping of and delivery of webinars.

The International Methodist conference took place in April 2023 and the Trust played an active role in the planning for the conference and supporting the delivery during the conference.

The Trust is further consolidating partnerships with MIST undertaking visits to schools to see how meaningful collaboration and sharing of best practice could be developed.

Through the work of the Methodist Schools Committee a number of collaborative opportunities are being developed including the development of a year-long course for Headteachers and Senior Leaders on 'Leadership in a Methodist School' focusing upon developing a strong Methodist ethos and foundation.

Prioritising areas of need

The Trust continues to be a flagship organisation for inclusivity and ensuring that all schools are open and welcoming to all. One of the key focuses of this continues to be our commitment to pupils with special educational needs. The numbers in our schools continues to be higher than nationally and this is often recognised as a strength within inspections. The Trust also has specialist provision within one school and is currently in the process of approval for establishment of a second.

As the nation embarked upon the cost of living crisis early in 2023 the Trust developed many initiatives to support families struggling at this time. These included the introduction of preloved uniform shops, cookery lessons to support cooking healthily on a budget (which was televised on the BBC news), and the sourcing of Christmas presents and hamper for those in most need. Parents really valued the commitment of the Trust and schools in overcoming some of the barriers for them.

The Trust has developed a Green Strategy to focus its work on sustainability and align with the Church's commitment in this area. As part of the strategy, the schools undertook a project in June 2023 to see how they could reduce their energy consumption and the results were high, leading to schools focussing on what strategies could be implemented as long term changes. The schools are currently reflecting on ways they can incorporate sustainability into the curriculum into a meaningful way that bring about lifestyle changes within the school and beyond to shape pupil's attitude to the sustaining our world for the long term.

Inspiring Lives Education Trust (ILET – Multi-Academy Trust)

The launching of ILET has been delayed by changing Government policies and DfE patterns of working. However, we are hopeful that it will be up and running by the time this report is read by Conference members. Most of what follows here are the plans and intentions of this Methodist Academy trust.

Growing schools

ILET, the second of our Methodist founded multi-academy Trusts, is being set up to cover the Midlands and South of England. The Trust is being established with majority articles and aspires to provide a home for solely Methodist schools, joint Methodist/Anglican schools and community schools. ILET is an inclusive Trust, welcoming schools of all faiths or none that are prepared to subscribe to our ethos and vision. Given our capacity and expertise in driving school improvement, the Trust aspires to sponsor primary and secondary schools, as well as special schools and alternative provision schools.

As ILET grows in size and in consideration of its large geographical area, the Trust will operate through a regional 'Hub' model. This enables groups of primary, secondary and potentially special schools to strengthen their education offer for pupils through a flexible and high performing work culture. This will promote collaboration, aspiration and support, anchored by a governance structure which seeks to act in the interests of the community.

The Trust's mission statement underpins the vision for the culture of ILET; transforming lives through excellent education rooted in love. With a strong record of school improvement across both primary and secondary education, particularly within disadvantaged communities, the Trust will drive high quality and inclusive education through a culture of continuous improvement that is motivating and ambitious for all and helps all pupils fulfil their potential.

ILET intends to **Offer excellent education** through a comprehensive and well-developed system of school improvement which will align with the DfE's regional schools' structure and be delivered through a hub model, quality assured by ILET's central school improvement team. Our existing network of Methodist Schools Regional Leaders in Education, co-ordinated by MAST and operating nationally, will continue to play a key role in supporting our school improvement strategies. The improvement strategy is built upon research-based and successful pedagogy. It will develop and share expertise across the schools to ensure every pupil fulfils their potential educationally, spiritually, culturally and socially. Our outcomes will aim to align with the government's levelling up mission, that by 2030 90% of pupils will leave primary school having achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. For secondary pupils, they will achieve at least grade 5 in both English, Maths, and other key subjects.

The Trust is **working closely** with MAST and the other trusts to continue **a strong and confident Methodist ethos** throughout all its schools. It is participating in the creation of the Leadership in Christian Schools course (see above) and it will from the beginning be working in areas of high need in the Birmingham area. This will remain one of its key priorities.

Methodist Independent Schools (MIST)

Growing schools

Schools within MIST schools continue to share best practice in teaching and learning, in pastoral care and in safeguarding. MIST seeks to support and develop our Heads with a cycle of external appraisal and internal reviews and with a paid sabbatical after six years in role.

We continue with our sustainability and carbon neutral goals and indeed, a case study used in the Methodist Schools Committee Newsletter *Transforming Lives 2023* details one school's journey towards net zero. With our colleagues in the wider family of Methodist Independent Schools (educating more than 10,000 children and young adults), we hold training and support days for Safeguarding Leads and HR Managers. Chairs of Governors, Heads and Bursar groups all meet termly to share ideas and best practice.

Staff wellbeing is a top priority throughout all Methodist Independent Schools. We grow schools and staff in tandem, working together to promote the whole school community.

Initiatives are led locally as every school operates within its own context. One school promotes *Wellbeing Wednesday* and staff receive a weekly email from the Head on themes such as Stoicism, Sleep, Hydration,

Exercise and Diet (SHED), reading for wellbeing development. All these ideas and creative promotions are complimented by leadership development and careers pathways programmes for staff.

At local level schools have variously implemented schemes such as a Wellbeing Room, a Wellbeing Team, and Ask a Buddy Team; they have worked with the diversity promotion charity, No Outsiders.

Methodist Independent Schools provide an excellent all-round education infused with a strong Christian ethos informed by their Methodist foundation. We do this in politically, socially and economically uncertain times, fully aware that the headwinds we face in the next few years will be challenging.

Offering excellent education

Public Examination results in Summer 2023 marked a return to the pre-Covid assessment systems and yielded outcomes in line with those of 2019. Year 13 leavers were able to take up offers from their universities of choice (in the main).

MIST schools continue to provide an education tailored to the needs and aspirations of each pupil: schools reported strong value added scores at Key Stages 3 and 4 and strong results in assessments at Prep levels. Special educational needs remain a key area of focus as our schools review their practice and revise policies to meet the changing needs of our pupils.

Boarding: 8 of the 10 MIST schools offer boarding and a review of that provision was commissioned in 2023 to look at the overall picture of boarding in the UK and the individual offer of Methodist Independent Schools. One school was a finalist in the Boarding Schools' Association 2022/23 Boarding awards.

Governance at School and Trust level is pivotal to the leadership of our schools and continues to be a priority for MIST. Training of new governors, new Chairs and new Trustees is developing and an external review of governance (for Trustees; in the schools) will be commissioned to run from summer term 2024 to spring 2025. It will also form one of our key strands in a refocused MIST Strategic Plan.

Wider School Life has returned with gusto after Covid interruption and the last academic year saw a plethora of activities, community engagement, educational visits and charitable outreach across all MIST schools. One school's enrichment programme was a National Finalist in the 'Best Experiential Learning' category of the Best Schools Muddy Stilettos Awards.

A confident Methodist ethos

As MIST moves toward a refocused Strategic Plan, with 'a confident Methodist ethos' as a main strand, we will be holding a training day for our Chairs and Heads in February where we will devote a main session to this exact topic, led by Karen Stefanyshyn of Waverley Learning. MIST understands that whatever the local circumstance and context of the school, the main and sustaining thread that runs throughout the group is our Methodist Ethos. We must be confident and proud of our foundation.

Last year saw the introduction of two SERVE (Spiritual, Ethos, Relationships & Values Education) pilots, based on the SIAMS inspections. These went extremely well and to date two more visits have been undertaken with two more planned later in the year. The visits were extremely positive, and SERVE visitors reported of one:

'Love permeates the actions of those leading the school, which is then reflected in the interactions between staff and pupils. This strong servant leadership creates a community, where pupils and staff successfully care for one another. This culture of care is embedded and secure. In discussions, the school's values were strongly and succinctly summarised by staff as: "Kindness, Community and Respect". Pupils live these values through their interactions with staff and peers giving a very real impression of Methodism in action.'

Methodist Independent Schools Annual Chaplains' Conference took place in October on the theme of pilgrimage. Based in Charney Manor, Oxfordshire, the three days offered retreat and reflection as well as a walking pilgrimage to Wesleyan sites in Oxford. In December, an online session on 'vision' was led by the Pastoral Visitor, the Rev'd Aubin de Gruchy.

The MIST Teachers of RE Group goes from strength to strength and will hold a one-day conference in summer for teachers of the subject. Lat Blaylock of RE Today will be a speaker. Possible topics for the day

include further developing spiritual, philosophical, and ethical strategies within the curriculum (linking to the MIST SERVE review) and opportunities outside the classroom.

The Away Days and Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine brought Methodist Schools together in a collective act of worship where we welcomed the President of the Conference, the Revd Gill Newton as our preacher.

Working together

The Transforming Lives Conference in April 2023 saw the coming together of more than 250 Methodist educators from across the globe. The 3 days in Bristol and Bath focused on schools with sessions including Wesley's Vision and Mission through Education, Equality and Diversity, Looking After Our World, and The Vision and Future for Methodist Schools. We also celebrated the 275th anniversary of the founding of Kingswood School in Bath.

Delegates from Methodist Schools UK joined those from all continents (with the notable exception of Antarctica) to share, to talk, to pray and to worship at John Wesley's New Rooms and at Kingswood Schools. Our overseas partner in the event, IAMSCU, welcomed us to their own service on the Sunday morning and provided us with the speakers and experiences that made the event truly global. The Spring 2023 Transforming Lives Newsletter is conference-themed and can be accessed here : [2023 Transforming Lives Newsletter](#)

The role of the Pastoral Visitor was expanded this year and now operates across MIST and MAST schools; links with Southlands College have begun to germinate the seeds of broader education events and initiatives; Wesley House and The Leys are exploring the possibility of a course for school leavers in pursuing a faith-based vocation.

A Methodist Schools Away Day in Summer 2023 produced common areas for development such as peer review for the executives of the Trusts, a course in Christian Leadership for school leaders and growing local partnerships in the South East and Yorkshire.

Prioritising areas of need

Methodist Independent Schools are committed to increasing the number of bursaries available, with a strong ambition that these account for 10% of all pupils on roll.

One school working with The Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (<https://www.royalspringboard.org.uk/>) supported their first springboarder this year. Several schools offer refugee support (through bursaries) to children from Syria and Ukraine.

One school - long partnered with a local state school to provide full bursaries for sixth formers and to share best practice, resources and facilities - has grown this partnership still further by enabling their partner school term time access to facilities thus providing it with a permanent home to deliver a PE Curriculum and to provide its pupils with enrichment opportunities.

Global Education has long been a feature within all Methodist Independent Schools. Pupils are encouraged to perceive themselves as being global citizens and to advocate where the need is greatest.

Work through Edukid (<https://www.edukid.org.uk>) a Global Education charity) in Uganda continues at one school; at another, a school-grown project in Malawi (and a 14-year long relationship) has led to the building of a new school.

Finally, MIST will embark upon a refocused strategic plan from the next academic year, focusing on three keys strands: our Methodist ethos; our group financial and business strength; and our governance.

*****RESOLUTION**

58/1. The Council receives the report and commends it to the Conference.

APPENDICES

MAST

Facts and Figures:

- There are currently 66 Methodist maintained schools under the oversight of the Methodist Council, educating approximately 15,000 children.
- 26 of our schools are solely Methodist and the rest held in partnership, most commonly with the Church of England. All are in the Primary phase.
- About a half of our schools are in the North West of England (predominantly in the Districts of Lancashire and Bolton and Rochdale), with the rest scattered across England covering, in all, 40 different Local Authorities and 18 Dioceses.
- Around 10% of our schools have become academies in non-Methodist groups; this requires a particular kind of MAST oversight to ensure that the academy chains are honouring the schools' Methodist tradition.
- In a development since last year, just under 10% of our schools are now in Methodist-based academy trusts.
- The profile for Methodist Schools is strong; 95% of Methodist schools are judged OFSTED 'Good' or better. Since the introduction of the new framework in September 2023, our schools continue to shine through their SIAMS inspections. 100% are judged at least Good/J1; 55% of these are Outstanding/Excellent demonstrating their strong ethos and the flourishing of all.

Epworth Education Trust

Facts and Figures:

- There are currently six schools within the Epworth Education Trust (EET) all of which are primary schools.
- Four schools have nursery provision, two of which provide education for 2 year olds alongside provision for 3 year olds and 4 year olds.
- The schools are all solely Methodist Schools and based in the North West of England.
- There are approximately 1500 pupils on roll in the schools.
- There are 230 staff across the Trust.
- One school has a resourced provision for up to 15 pupils to provide an education for SEND pupils that are unable to access mainstream provision.
- Within the Trust all schools are at least 'Good'.
- All schools are subject to a SIAMS, and they are all judged good or better. Five of the schools have the highest grading of 'Outstanding/ Excellent'.

MIST

Facts and Figures:

- Most Methodist Independent Schools were established by groups of local Methodist communities in the nineteenth and early twentieth century following Wesley's pioneering opening of Kingswood School in 1748 followed by Wesley's successors opening the Wesleyan Academy at Woodhouse Grove in 1812.
- In 1903 most of the schools were brought together by a common Trust Deed and under the ultimate control of the Board of Management for Methodist Schools (BOM). BOM was superseded by the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST) in 2011.
- There are currently 18 independent schools linked in some way to MIST: Trust Schools (10), Associated Schools (3), Affiliated Schools (5) – two of the affiliated schools are overseas and linked to a Trust school (Kent College Dubai and Kent College West Cairo). A full list and details can be found on the website: www.methodistschools.org.uk
- MIST is directly responsible as Trustees for the 10 Trust Schools and the Chief Executive Officer of MIST is a Governor at the Associated and Affiliated Schools.
- There are over 10,000 pupils on roll in Methodist Independent Schools.
- Twelve of the schools have boarders as well as day pupils.
- Two of the schools are for children of nursery and primary age only, two have pupils from 11-18 only and the rest offer continuity of education from 3 to 18.
- All of the schools are inspected by the Independent Schools Inspection Service (ISI) which reports to OFSTED; all such inspections in the past year have confirmed very high standards in all the schools. Copies of independent school inspection reports are published on each school's website and at www.isi.net
- In academic year 2022/23, MIST Trust provided over £4,900,000 in means-tested bursaries to help hundreds of children to attend the schools whose family circumstances would otherwise restrict access; these bursaries are funded by a mixture of funds raised from using school facilities out of term or school time and from diverting a proportion of the fees paid by all to support the costs of others. In addition, the Methodist Bursary Fund and associated funds made awards for Methodist families attending Methodist Independent Schools of over £132,000.