

1 December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Appointment of the new CEO**

We are delighted to share that the REACH2 Trust Board has today announced Cathie Paine as the organisation's new CEO. Following a robust and competitive recruitment process, Cathie, currently Deputy Chief Executive, stood out as an exceptional leader amongst a very strong field of candidates. Cathie will assume the leadership of the trust from Sir Steve Lancashire, who established the trust in 2012, at the beginning of the summer term.

Cathie has been Deputy Chief Executive of REACH2 since its inception and has played a vital role in creating the design of the Trust, securing educational improvements, and overseeing its growth.

With the organisation now approaching its 10-year anniversary, REACH2 has achieved an enormous amount. Of the academies that have been inspected by Ofsted since joining REACH2, 87% are now graded as Good or Outstanding. We are confident that, in Cathie's excellent hands, REACH2 has an exciting future and – thanks to our hard-working, dedicated staff – it will continue to benefit the children, families and communities within its reach. Both I and the whole Trust Board look forward to supporting Cathie in the development of a continued compelling vision for the Trust.

Cathie will be in touch in the summer term when she officially takes over the role, however in the meantime said "I am absolutely delighted to be appointed as CEO and I look forward to building on the strengths of the first ten years. We will continue our unremitting commitment to the children's education and will broaden our horizons to respond to wider challenges, ensuring that tens of thousands of children are fully prepared for the changing world around them."

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Gavin Robert  
**Chair, REACH2 Trust Board**