



RAISING ROCHDALE
PIONEERS TRUST

Annual Report

2021 / 22

'We, the Pioneers Trust, commit to Raising Rochdale, our joint mission leading change to constantly improve our systems and practice, ensuring that every individual and institution can thrive, both now and in the future.'

Foreword



The Rochdale Pioneers Trust is a partnership between all secondary schools, post-16 providers, post-11 special and alternative provision as well as Rochdale Local Authority. We, the Pioneers Trust, commit to Raising Rochdale, our joint mission leading change to constantly improve our systems and practice, ensuring that every individual and institution can thrive, both now and in the future. This means that we commit to the cooperation of all members within a culture of professional trust and respect, sharing expertise, data and resources, to ensure equity and excellence across our key practices.

The Trust began its work in September 2012 and its main purpose is to foster a self-improving education system able to rigorously self-evaluate, and collectively support and challenge each other through a school-to-school improvement model involving other partners and the Local Authority.

As institutions within a Priority Education Investment Area we are acutely aware of the challenges ahead and are looking forward to the future with hope and optimism.

The education sector is going through a period of considerable change and our partnership work is vital if we are to continue to improve the lives of young people across the borough. The publication of the Government White Paper, *Opportunity for All: Strong Schools with Great Teachers for your Child* will undoubtedly lead to further change in the coming years and the importance of the Trust in providing a collective voice has never been more important.

Our work in 2021/22 was focussed on developing a strategic plan with the two main priorities of:

Support for those at greatest risk – Our highest priority as leaders in education is to ensure that we effectively support students facing greater risks, and those newly vulnerable as a result of the pandemic. We collectively strive to raise the attainment of all young people so they can access a wide range of opportunities, now and in the future.

Curriculum - High quality curriculum planning and delivery is fundamental to ensuring all young people have a successful educational journey in which no institution or young person is left behind.

As Chief Executive of the Pioneers Trust I am delighted to represent our members as we work collaboratively for the benefit of all young people in Rochdale. Further information on the work of the Pioneers Trust can be found on our website at www.rochdalepioneerstrust.org

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'A Bridson'.

Andrew Bridson
Chief Executive

The Original Rochdale Pioneers

Rochdale is known as the home of co-operation as it was where 28 working class people came together to try to create a fairer way to live and work to benefit their community. Rochdale is where the first successful consumer co-operative began.

The 28 were known as the Rochdale Pioneers, named after their society of Equitable Pioneers. They had decided to open a member owned and run organisation to provide local people with affordable, good quality food in a time of great deprivation and austerity in the 1840's. They did so by establishing a set of values and principles which formed the basis for co-operative organisations all over the world.



From the small, sparse shop front, the society grew its local membership and was copied all over the North West region and the rest of the UK. Individual 'Co-op' societies grew their membership, sometimes merging together to form larger organisations which could provide their members with all the goods they would need in their daily lives. The federation of co-operatives led to one of the biggest and best known societies - The Co-operative Wholesale Society which was formed in 1863 and is now known as the Co-operative Group. The original building on Toad Lane, which has been open as Rochdale Pioneers Museum since 1931, remains a source of inspiration for people wanting be a part of positive change.

You can find out more information regarding the original Rochdale Pioneers by visiting the Rochdale Pioneers Museum, 31 Toad Lane, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, OL12 0NU or via the Co-operative Heritage Trust website www.co-operativeheritage.coop

The Rochdale Pioneers Trust takes inspiration from the co-operative principles developed by the original Rochdale Pioneers and seeks to work in partnership for the benefit of all the young people of Rochdale.

The Pioneers Trust has developed a strong partnership with high levels of trust and collaboration between institutions. Our strategic plan is integrated into the wider priorities of the Rochdale Children and Young People's Partnership.



The strategic plan for 2021/22 was expressed in seven sections, based on the research report *Developing a new locality model for English schools* (Cousin and Crossley-Holland 2021):

1. Recruitment & retention
2. **Support for vulnerable pupils**
3. **Curriculum**
4. Institution wide improvement
5. Accountability & quality assurance
6. Admissions & place planning
7. Building the system for the future

The second and third of these (*Support for vulnerable pupils* and *Curriculum*, in that order) have been identified by the Trust as the overarching priorities.

In order to support the implementation of the plan at institution level, Challenge Partners were introduced to provide peer support and challenge. Each institution was also invited to share an aspect of outstanding practice with the group through regular 'takeaway' sessions throughout the year.

In order for all institutions to be aware of the latest inspection requirements we hosted a conference in September 2021 and invited Emma Gregory, Senior HMI in the North West. This was an opportunity for leaders to highlight areas of success and share the challenges faced across the borough and was particularly useful for the 5 schools that received their Ofsted inspection in 2021/22.

Our Trust has continued to grow with Edgar Wood Academy welcoming their first cohort of Year 7 students in September 2021. We have also welcomed STAR Academies into the borough at Oulder Hill Leadership Academy and Kingsway Park High School became part of the Altus Education Trust.

The post-16 provision in the borough continues to be a beacon of excellence and this year saw the opening of the University Centre at Hopwood Hall College. The Rochdale Guarantee linking Hopwood Hall College, Cardinal Langley RC High School and Rochdale Sixth Form College continued to ensure that all young people leaving Year 11 have a college place in the borough. This has been key in ensuring that fewer young people in Rochdale are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) than in Greater Manchester or England. We are delighted that, upon completion of post-16 study, almost twice as many young people from Rochdale go on to further education compared to the Greater Manchester and national averages.

In 2022, public exams took place for the first time since the start of the pandemic, with national outcomes between those from the last exam series in 2019 and the Teacher Assessed Grades of 2021. Provisional results at GCSE indicate they are in line with the national trend but that there has been a significant increase in the proportion of students achieving a strong pass (Grade 5+) in English and maths. At A-level, the proportion of students achieving A*/A grades has almost doubled since 2019 and at Hopwood Hall College the number of people applying to university is up 54% from 2020.

To enable the work of the Trust to be aligned with the work of key local bodies, members are represented on a wide range of organisations, including the Greater Manchester Learning Partnership, Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board, the Children & Young People's Partnership, SEND Alliance and work across phase with reciprocal membership between the Pioneers Trust and Rochdale Association of Primary Heads.



The work of the curriculum deputies, led by the deputies from Holy Family and St Anne's, has been focussed on learning from, and sharing good practice, regarding the Ofsted Research Reports published in the majority of subjects. There has also been a Subject Networks created for Music to provide peer support as well as Geography leads continuing their collaboration with the Oldham and Tameside network. A project to provide a best practice guide for subject line management was completed and shared throughout the Trust.

The Pioneers Trust was fortunate to be part of the Great Teaching Toolkit pilot through Evidence Based Education, building on the initiative of Falinge Park High School. This has involved over 200 teachers from 8 schools across the borough accessing the latest evidence based research to improve student outcomes and experience.

It remains the Government ambition that 75% of students study the EBacc qualifications by 2022 and 90% by 2025. In Rochdale, we remain significantly below this target but we are moving towards this with a 4.5% increase in students achieving a grade 4+ in the EBacc suite of qualifications since 2019. This year also saw the introduction of our first Languages Conference which involved colleagues from primary and secondary phases. This was very successful and is part of a pilot to develop a language strategy across the borough which is hoped will impact on the uptake of languages at GCSE which is currently the main barrier to greater participation in the EBacc.

2022/23 will see a greater focus on reading and literacy with a Reading Summit taking place in September 2022 and literacy being a key element of the *Right to Succeed* programme.

The establishment of an Inclusion Board and Inclusion Deputies network has been a significant development towards our goals to improve attendance and reduce exclusions. This work was led by school leaders from Falinge Park High School, Newhouse Academy, Brownhill Learning Community, Kingsway Park High School and Wardle Academy.



The Inclusion Board has reviewed the Fair Access Protocols to ensure that all students have access to a school place. The Inclusion Deputies have worked with the Local Authority to partner with a national charity, *Right to Succeed*, which aims to work with local areas to help improve attendance and reduce exclusions.

The attendance figures for the borough in 2021/22 have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels but are above the Greater Manchester and national averages. The figures match the national trends which show an increased number of students who are emotionally based non-attenders as well as a 36% increase in students being Electively Home Educated across the last 5 years.

This year there were 83 permanent exclusions from secondary schools, which is higher than previous years and above the Greater Manchester average. This is an indication of the increasingly complex student issues that schools are faced with and is placing significant pressure on the Pupil Referral Service. One of the key priorities for the coming year is the development of effective alternative provision which will offer a different route to success for some of our young people.

In order to support the local Inclusion Strategy, Rochdale is working with Local Authorities in Wiltshire, Wakefield and Coventry as part of a national AEC Trust pilot to determine a locality-wide definition of vulnerability, developing a greater understanding of those at risk of marginalisation and to improve support for vulnerable children and young people across the local area.



Safeguarding continues to be the highest priority for those working with young people in Rochdale. In March 2022, a Complex Safeguarding Day hosted school leaders and Designated Safeguarding Leads from all institutions. This included input from the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board, Neighbourhood Police and Your Trust. The volume and complexity of safeguarding cases has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic and has put additional pressures on the pastoral support programmes available in schools. As a Trust we have also commissioned an external provider, Judicium, to conduct safeguarding audits across 9 schools as well as providing an overview to the Trust of emerging issues.

Rochdale has a higher proportion of students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding than the national average. Historically Rochdale’s disadvantage gap in GCSE English and maths has been close to the national average and lower than the Greater Manchester gap. However, in recent years the disadvantage gap in Rochdale has increased relative to England and is now close to the Greater Manchester average. An external Pupil Premium review was commissioned by the Trust and the findings shared with members to highlight strengths and areas for development. An initial Pupil Premium Strategy has been developed across the borough and will be embedded further during the work in 2022/23.



Significant work is still required if we are to continue to close the attainment gap with Rochdale ranking 89 out of 149 local authorities based on the size of its GCSE disadvantage gap.



#BeeWell is a programme in Greater Manchester that aims to make the wellbeing of young people everybody’s business. In Rochdale, 12 schools took part in the survey, with 2686 young people contributing their views. The results of the survey have helped us understand the state of wellbeing across age groups and recognize the needs of young people as we exit the pandemic.

There were a wide range of topics covered in the survey but it is worth noting that despite the challenges of the pandemic, 83% of students responded to say they have hope and feel optimistic about the future.

It is, however, a concern that the results indicate that 1 in 6 are likely to require significant support for their mental health compared to 1 in 9 before the pandemic. In response, there are currently Mental Health Practitioners embedded in half the schools across the borough and there has been a greater level of promotion of the mental health support available for children and young people. In addition, the Youth Sport Trust were invited to share their Well Schools Programme with the Trust and Cardinal Langley RC High School has been nominated as Lead School for Health and Wellbeing to help share best practice across all institutions.

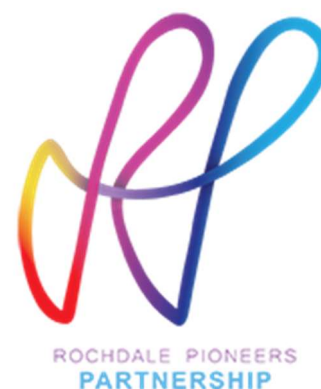
Other significant findings that impact on education were only 57% responded that they regularly get enough sleep to be able to concentrate on school work during the school day along with an average of 4.5 hours per day spent on social media. These are both areas of concern and we are working on a package of support.



The SEND Alliance strategy from 2021-26 is a 5-year plan and supported by committed partners to ensure this is implemented. Demand for EHCP assessments has increased by 60% over the last 5 years and particularly over the previous 12 months. The increased number and complexity of need is a key pressure on schools and is a priority for the Rochdale Children and Young People's Partnership. In order to support the implementation in schools, Redwood School have led an innovative 18-month training programme for current and aspiring SENDCo's which has been highly successful and will welcome a second cohort in 2022/23.

Rochdale has been selected to be one of 55 Local Authority areas to be part of a 3-year programme to develop better value in SEND. It is hoped this will have a long term impact on the availability of provision, especially when the new specialist school opens in Heywood in 2024. It is expected that there will be significant developments in the area of SEND following the publication of the Green Paper, *SEND review: right support, right place, right time*, and the anticipated SEND White Paper in the coming year.

Led by Middleton Technology School, the Pioneers Partnership is a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), providing non-salaried training routes into teaching. Our vision is that every child has the opportunity to receive an Outstanding education and it provides high quality and personalised training to graduates to support this. On successful completion of the one-year training course, participants achieve Qualified Teacher Status and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from Manchester Metropolitan University. We were delighted that the SCITT was graded Good in all areas during the Ofsted inspection in May 2022, with the report highlighting ***'Trainees in the Pioneers Partnership SCITT thrive. Leaders ensure that trainees are well prepared to embark on a career in teaching.'***



Further information on the work of the Pioneers Partnership can be found at www.rochdalepioneerspartnership.com



In 2022, the Trust was fortunate to develop a partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers to offer an Employability Skills Development Programme to Year 11 students across the borough. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop their employability skills and gain an insight into life as a management consultant. A total of 19 students from Kingsway Park High School, Middleton Technology School, Cardinal Langley RC High School, Matthew Moss High School, the Home Tuition Service & Falinge Park High School are enrolled on the programme which began with a 2-day taster session in June and includes in-person development days at their Manchester office, one-to-one mentoring sessions, and the possibility of a paid work-experience week in August 2023. It is hoped this is a partnership that will grow and see a different cohort starting the programme each year and raising the aspirations of our young people.

We are proud that the following are members of the Rochdale Pioneers Trust:



Brownhill Learning Community

www.theblc.org.uk



Cardinal Langley RC High School

www.clrchs.co.uk



Edgar Wood Academy

www.edgarwood.org



Falinge Park High School

www.falingepark.com



Hollingworth Academy

www.hollingworthacademy.co.uk



Holy Family RC & CE College

www.hfch.co.uk



Hopwood Hall College

www.hopwdood.ac.uk



Kingsway Park High School

www.kingswaypark.org



**MATTHEW MOSS
HIGH SCHOOL**

Matthew Moss High School

www.mmhs.co.uk



Middleton Technology School

www.midstech.greatacademies.co.uk



Newhouse Academy

www.newhouseacademy.co.uk



Oulder Hill Leadership Academy

www.oulderhillacademy.com



Redwood School

www.redwood-school.com



Rochdale Borough Council

www.rochdale.gov.uk



Rochdale Sixth Form College

www.rochdalesfc.ac.uk



St Anne's Church of England Academy

www.stannesacademy.org.uk



St Cuthbert's RC High School

www.scrchs.net



Wardle Academy

www.wardleacademy.co.uk