

**DSAT Theological Rationale**

The Diocese of Sheffield Academies (DSAT) Trust is an organisation of wonderful schools that work together under a single trustee body. As followers of Christ, we recognise the importance of education and its potential to transform lives. Education not only provides knowledge and skills but also promotes personal growth, social mobility, and positive contributions to society.

From a theological perspective, there are several reasons why DSAT, operating as a Multi Academy Trust with a collection of schools, benefits pupils and the communities it serves.

The Bible teaches that we are created to live in a community with others (Genesis 2:18). DSAT fosters collaboration and community among schools, teachers, and students. This leads to more effective education and a stronger sense of belonging among pupils and staff.

By pooling resources, DSAT provides better education and support for pupils while being a good steward of resources. The Bible teaches that God calls us to be good stewards of the resources we have been given (Luke 12:42-48), and DSAT helps schools to do this by sharing resources and expertise.

The Bible teaches that we are called to seek justice and equity for all (Micah 6:8). DSAT ensures that all pupils have access to quality education, regardless of their socio-economic background or location. This is especially important in areas where there is a lack of resources or educational opportunities.

DSAT ensures its schools align their own individual mission, vision and theological rationale with a common set of values and principles. This ensures that all schools serve their own particular community but with the same ambitious targets that are aligned with the Church Of England's ambition for Life in all its fullness - John 10:10'

DSAT exists to promote stewardship of resources, collaboration and community, equity and social justice, mission and vision alignment with service and outreach. By working together, schools within DSAT provide better education and support for pupils while fulfilling their calling to be good stewards of the resources God has given to us.

Whilst each of our school's contexts are very different, within DSAT, we place significant emphasis on delivering for disadvantaged pupils. This binds all our schools, and there is a strong emphasis on the value and dignity of every human being as created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This includes children from all backgrounds and socio-economic statuses. It is the responsibility of those who follow Christ to care for and support all children, including those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Pupil Premium is a government initiative that provides additional funding to schools to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those who are eligible for free school meals. As Christians, we are called to love and serve our neighbours, especially those who are in need (Matthew 22:37-40, 25:34-40). Supporting pupil-premium children is a practical way to live out this calling.

Supporting pupil-premium children aligns with the biblical principles of justice and compassion. The Bible speaks out against injustice and oppression, particularly towards the vulnerable and marginalised (Isaiah 1:17, Proverbs 31:8-9). Children from disadvantaged backgrounds often face systemic barriers that limit their opportunities and potential. By supporting pupil-premium children, we are helping to address these inequalities and promote a more just and equitable society.

Supporting pupil-premium children is a theological imperative for everyone in DSAT. It reflects our values of love, service, and justice and helps to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to access quality education and reach their full potential.

Ultimately DSAT delivers quality education and Christian values to every child and also sees this as a way to make a positive contribution to society. By promoting our Christian values in our schools, we equip all our students with the skills and attitudes needed to make a positive difference in the world.