



The Elliot Foundation
Annual report to parents and carers
2022



Claremont Primary School
Building the confidence to have a go and to have a voice starts in Early Years and continues through to Year Six. Our children know we are there to support them and that we are listening.

Ramsey Spinning Infant and Juniors
We value and prioritise 'Reading for pleasure'. We encourage informal book talk and our children love to share books and make recommendations.



Chandos Primary School
Nurturing nature in the heart of the city. At Chandos we grow, learn and achieve together...but it does mean getting your hands dirty!

Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know the Elliot Foundation wants their children to have a good education that will give them opportunities in the future. They also want us to be intelligent people, who have manners and can socialise with others - all of these things make us well-rounded students.

When we come to school we expect a quiet classroom where people work together and are kind to each other. While we want interesting facts to help us learn everything that will make us good students, we know it's also important that we learn how to treat each other in the right way. We can't be successful without having all these things in place.

This year, we got to take part in a huge sports event called The Elliot Olympics - it was so much fun! Lots of us have spent time at home so it was so exciting to get active and compete with thousands of other Elliot friends.

We were also part of a global event as we welcomed Little Amal, an enormous art piece showing a young refugee girl, who had travelled across the world. We welcomed her with dancing and art and costumes.

Like any family, we all learn from each other and we share ideas with all of us. Teachers and children try to be fair to each other, encourage each other and share ideas in our school and other schools. We all learn from each other. This is something we are encouraged to work on in our schools. New members are welcomed and we embrace our diversity and learn about each other's ideas.

We are proud to be part of the school and also proud to be ourselves!

Written by:

Asia Abdullah, Alex Abalayah, Isaiah Hilton, Ava Phipps and Haretha Nabhan
Year 6, Chandos Primary School

Ema Sirutaviciute and Salomeja Lucinskaite
Year 6, Nene and Ramnoth School

Musa, Urata, Kuba, Almira, Erin, Saif, Remiel and Feliz
Year 6, Parkfield Primary School



Who we are

Where children believe they can because teachers know they can

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust is an educational charity established to give children a brighter future. We were founded in 2011 and we opened our first academy in September 2012. Today we are a thriving community of 29 primary schools spread across 3 different regions in the UK.

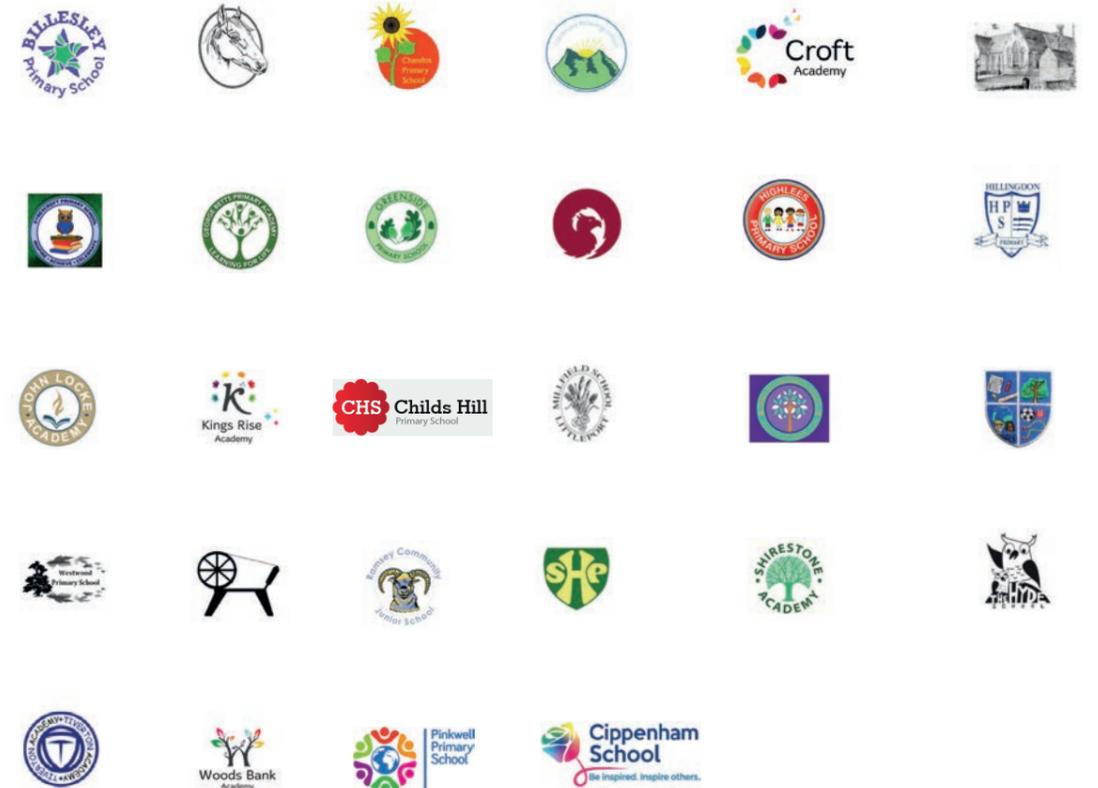
We serve over 12,000 children in the West Midlands, London and East Anglia, our diverse network is committed to raising the expectations for all children and teacher in society.



Greenside Primary School
Learning is everything & everything is learning; our student leaders change the world with live broadcasts & podcasts at our Greenside Film Factory. World ready & test ready knowledge & skills link our curriculum to inspire our community. We're having fun learning together and challenging ourselves everyday!



Hillingdon Primary School
Enjoying geography outside: growing potatoes, bird watching and planting trees in partnership with trees for cities and Hillingdon Borough. We have planted over 600 trees to improve the air quality for our community. Our pupils value their responsibility as global citizens.



What we do

We are a charitable organisation committed to equipping children with the knowledge and behaviours necessary to achieve academic success. We ensure that all children within the Elliot Foundation are nurtured with the safety, security and skills to become active and responsible citizens within their communities.

This year we ensured that we retained a focus on our other charitable objectives which include the relief of poverty, hunger and unemployment. This was exemplified in our Community Box Programme which began in March 2020. In partnership with the sports charity Rackets Cubed, we provide weekly boxes of food, hygiene and educational essentials to vulnerable families in our communities.

For further information on this initiative, please go to p.16, 'Supporting our communities'.



How is it going

Despite another year of educational disruption our schools have successfully navigated through lockdowns, staff and child absences and new Covid variants.

Our schools prioritised the safety and wellbeing of their children and communities. We asked our families how they felt it was going.



Quality of education

Ofsted is an independent government agency responsible for inspecting the quality of education in all state funded schools. Every school is required by law to publish their own reports. All inspection reports are also available on Ofsted's website ¹.

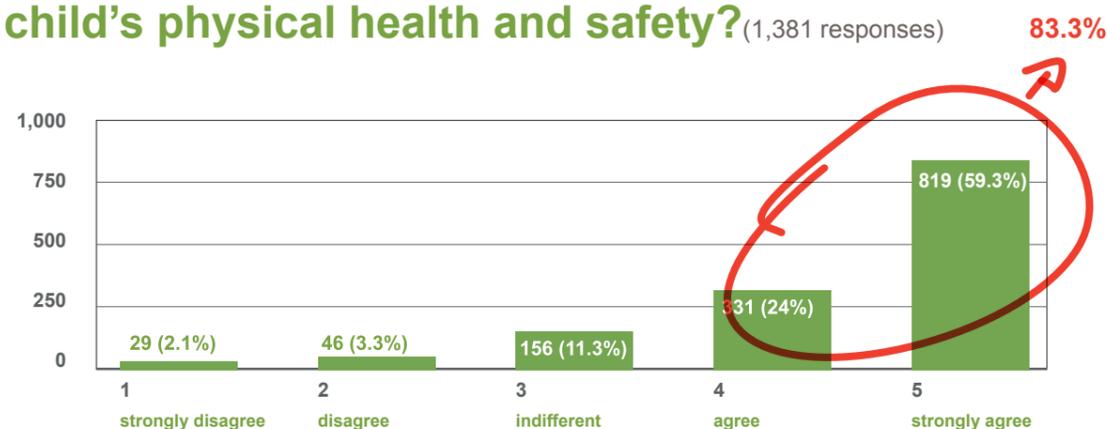
Routine inspections were severely affected by the Covid Pandemic and graded inspections were suspended in March 2020 only to be reintroduced in September 2021. So none of our schools had a graded inspection in 2021.

The standardised tests children take at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (SATS) were also suspended for the second year, although they will be reintroduced in 2022.

In the absence of these established measures we value our parents and carers opinions even more. This is why we have been sending you feedback questionnaires every term. We are proud that 85% of parents and carers have consistently agreed or strongly agreed that we have looked after your children's health and safety. Over 80% are either happy or very happy with the overall educational experience given to your children throughout this year.

¹ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Do you feel that the school is looking after your child's physical health and safety? (1,381 responses)

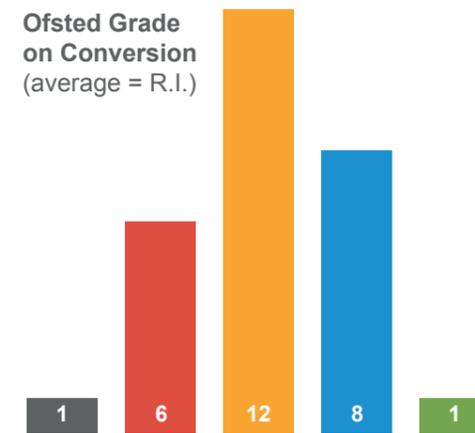


How do you feel about the overall educational experience afforded to your child? (895 responses)



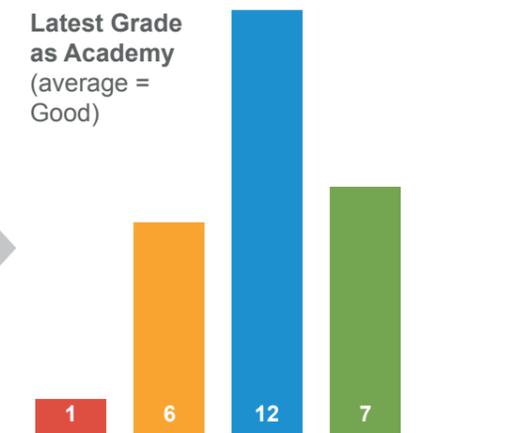
Then...

Ofsted Grade on Conversion (average = R.I.)



Now...

Latest Grade as Academy (average = Good)



- New School (no previous grade)
- Inadequate
- R.I.
- Good
- Outstanding

Average improvement across all Elliot Foundation academies after 40 Ofsted inspections over 9 years is from RI to Good



Digital learning and engagement

This year the Virtual School built upon the sound foundations that were established throughout its first year in response to the pandemic. Whilst we have been overjoyed that schools have largely remained open since March 2021, education has still been disrupted. Utilising technology, we have continued to provide a quality remote learning offer to over 700 pupils across the Trust who have remained at home. Since September 2021, we have 75% of our schools collaborating in this environment. We are incredibly proud of this provision which is loved by pupils and leaders alike.

"The Virtual School was an essential resource that we could rely on during the pandemic. Having this option available to us, enabled us to focus on, in school provision whilst confidently knowing that our isolating children were also getting an equally brilliant service at home. This in turn lifted the pressure off our staff - thank you."

Vice Principal, Billesley Primary School, West Midlands

"I hope you have an amazing rest of the year! This might be my last time ever seeing you since my isolation from having Covid-19 is ending tomorrow. (I hope I don't get sick again) but if I do I hope to be sent to this class"

Pupil from Nene & Ramnoth School



Earlier this year we asked our parents and carers about school websites. We are pleased to share that this sparked a huge project within the Virtual School as we designed a school website template that met the necessary requirements; phone compatible, clear to navigate, informative. We have 3 schools using it so far so please check them out:



As the disruption of the pandemic resides, we are beginning to see an increase in Ofsted visits and this Summer will see the return of formal testing such as SATs, Multiplication Checks and Phonic Screening. All of this data will be available on your school's website as soon as it is published.



Arts across our schools

The creative arts are embedded into the curriculum of all of our schools and we are delighted that so many creative projects have found their way into our classrooms.

In each Academy there is an Arts Ambassador whose role is to promote the arts through commissioning work by artists and developing high quality provision in school, including Arts Award and Arts Mark.



In East Anglia we worked as a Trust to deliver an inspirational and exciting Royal Opera House Create and Design programme based around the ballet of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. This programme has inspired the development of an Arts community within our Trust which is being used to provide an effective way to share resources, knowledge and expertise. As the various units unfurl, teachers are (to borrow the words from Alice) going further and further 'down the rabbit hole' and becoming more inspired to make cross curricular links within and outside of their classrooms.

In October 2021 Arts Council England announced funding of £2,780,000 to build a network of schools to test a range of innovative approaches to teaching for creativity. The Elliot Foundation is one of only eight MATs nationally to be selected for the Creativity Collaboratives pilot for the West Midlands and East Anglia.

The network will trial various methods of teaching that help children and young people to develop their creative capabilities and evaluate their effectiveness.

Our chosen themes are place-making and Geography. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been devastating to see the impact on young people's life chances. Working in partnership with



Stan's Cafe and Open Theatre, we want to do something to empower our young people to own their identity and sense of place.

In London, our schools focused on an incredibly moving project which connected all of our children this year. The Walk with Little Amal was an initiative focused around a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl created by the acclaimed Handspring Puppet Company.

The Walk was a 4-month long 8,000 km journey made by Little Amal. She travelled to Manchester from the Syrian border in search of her mother and shining a light on the stories of the millions of displaced children that she represented. At this time of multiple crises, her urgent message to the world was "Don't forget about us".

Throughout the Autumn term our schools took part in various activities to support and welcome Little Amal. Children sent her letters and postcards of support which were read out by the leaders of the European Parliament in Brussels. Greenside Primary School choreographed a beautiful dance routine which they shared with all of our schools to practice so that everyone in the Elliot Foundation could welcome Little Amal together when she arrived in the United Kingdom.



Sports and physical activity across the Trust

In the Summer term of 2021 children from across The Elliot Foundation came together virtually to compete in the first TEFAT Games organised by our Expert PE Teacher at The Hyde. Competitions were held regionally with standing jump, throwing the nerf (javelin) and 40 metre sprint. In the national finals the first records were established: standing jump: boys, Hillingdon: 2.2m; girls, Woods Bank: 2.15m throwing the nerf: boys, Hillingdon: 36.9m; girls, Pinkwell: 23.6m 40m sprint: boys, Griffin: 6.08s; girls, Shireland Hall: 6.15s.

Tiverton continue to impress with their achievements in dance winning the 2021 national primary competition of The Great Big Dance Off.

Billesley Primary School has a well established tennis programme in partnership with RacketsCubed which goes from strength to strength.



Griffin Primary School Our Griffin Inside Out Learning Model inspires and challenges us in so many different ways and helps us link our knowledge and skills. "We love our Forest in the City. It's a really exciting place where we learn and explore through play and big questions all day long!"



Cavalry Primary School At Cavalry Primary School, our outdoor classroom is valued as much as our indoor ones. Our Reception pupils here were using their transient art skills and teamwork skills to produce some very special pictures with natural materials. They also know the value of 'taking only memories and leaving only footprints', making sure they care for this special environment.



Supporting our communities

As the Covid Pandemic continued to impact our lives this year our Community Box Programme swiftly evolved into one of our most important projects. The programme is a partnership between TEFAT and sports charity Rackets Cubed. Together we provide weekly boxes of food, personal hygiene, cleaning products and educational essential to vulnerable families within our communities.

Since March 2020 the partnership has distributed over 39,163 boxes at a total value of approximately £1.4 million to families in our Trust. We are now operating the programme in 18 schools across London, East Anglia and the West Midlands. Through central fundraising we have raised over £50,000 to support this initiative. Our aim is to extend this programme to all 29 schools by the end of the academic year. To support our fundraising efforts please visit our just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/theelliotfoundationwintercampaign?invite=true>

Charities such as FareShare UK, The Felix Project, InKind Direct and City Harvest London, supply our schools with surplus food items such as rice, pasta and vegetables and personal hygiene items.

The weekly collection offers our staff and families a moment to check-in with each other, reflect on the week and share in the unique communal spirit which is fostered at the school gate.



We encourage our schools to work collaboratively with their local communities, including businesses, charities and parents, to volunteer and supply extra materials for their boxes. This model encourages a sense of ownership and responsibility amongst our schools and ensures that the programme can be self-sustaining.

Griffin Primary School provides 50 boxes to their families and they have recently teamed up with 'Waste Not Want Not' for extra supplies.

Nene and Ramnoth School acts as a hub site to support other schools in the local area such as Elm Road who receive 20 boxes from the school.

Kings Rise Academy has successfully fostered cross community collaboration as they involve local church volunteers to support with the makeup and distribution of the boxes each week.

"Life saving and life changing, in that there have been times when due to either financial or empty shelves we have been missing the staples of a main meal"

Inclusivity

Children who attend our schools come from varied backgrounds. One third of our children are supported through pupil premium grants, approximately 46% have English as an additional language and 16% have a special educational need. This makes our learning environment a melting pot of culture, experience and diversity.

As our schools emerged from the pandemic we have placed a greater focus on some of our Trust values in learning and community. We are determined that our schools will allow their children to discover themselves and to aspire beyond any limitations that their context might appear to place upon them. Our staff have ensured that the return to the classroom has been met with openness, nurture and care for all in their community.



In November 2021, Nene and Ramnoth opened a dedicated Nurture space. This suite of four rooms, known collectively as 'The Glade', was designed to support and built to support a growing number of children with complex additional social and emotional needs. Since the introduction of NurtureUK approaches to helping children understand and manage their emotions, the school has seen a significant reduction in suspensions and exclusions. Highly trained Nurture room staff, and a careful balance of academic and social and emotional work in the setting has enabled many of the children who have been through the Nurture provision to now flourish in mainstream classrooms.

Kings Rise Academy has been very fortunate over the last few years to forge a relationship with award winning speaker, leader, influencer and CEO of Cherished, Hannah Simnett. Together they have worked with girls in Year 5 and 6 to develop self-esteem and self-confidence. Through one to one sessions and group mentoring, children can understand their trauma and feel inspired to know that they are valued and loved for who they are and who they will become!

Claremont and Childs Hill Primary have been supporting over 8 Afghan refugee families living in hotel accommodation. They have ensured that they are assisted with food, uniform, access to learning mentor, SEN and EAL support as required. The pastoral support team has established strong links with the refugee community support workers. After half term, a weekly after school club for families will run from 4-6pm and parents and carers can have a coffee and a chat and children can play together, away from the hotels.





Elm Road Primary
Collaborating with St Catherine's College, Cambridge in a community singing project.



Billesley Primary School
Creativity, collaboration and perseverance in action. Working together to overcome challenges in Nursery!



John Locke Academy
The children of John Locke Academy bringing harmony to a discordant world at Number 10 Downing Street.



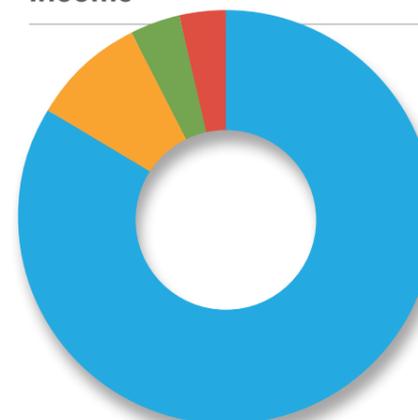
How much does it cost and who pays?

The Elliot Foundation is almost entirely funded from public money.

- Last year our total income was £70.5m • 86% of this was spent on staff costs
- The Trust has £7.1m of reserves

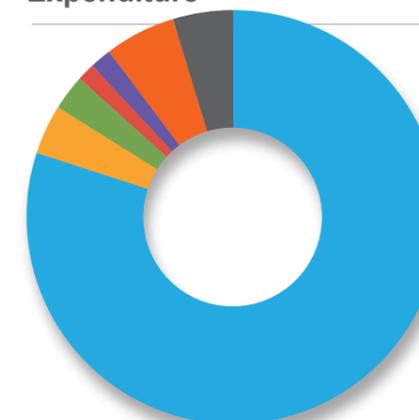
We expect to use a significant proportion of these reserves over the coming three years as education funding continues to decrease in real terms and as the costs of supporting children and families through the consequences of the pandemic increases. If you want to know more about our finances our annual Trustees' report and full accounts can be found on our website. You can also find comparative information on the government's Schools Financial Benchmarking Site.

Income



- Central Government funding - £59m
- Local authority funding (e.g. nurseries and SEN provision) - £6.4m
- Capital funding - £2.7m
- Other funding - £2.4m

Expenditure



- Costs of employing staff - £60.7m
- Costs of maintaining school buildings - £3.0m
- Catering costs - £2.0m
- Educational supplies - £1.2m
- ICT - £1.2m
- Other - £4.3m
- Depreciation - £3.4m

Total income: £70.5m

Total expenditure: £75.8m

The loss shown above is the accounting position including non cash movements such as an element of pension deficits and depreciation. The movement on free reserves, which is a better indication of financial health showed an in year small surplus of £81k.

How do you think we are doing?

If there is anything you think we are doing well or could do better please get in touch

@ info@elliottfoundation.co.uk

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https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-elliott-foundation-academies-trust/



Tiverton Academy Extremely Proud of our Gold Medalists at Birmingham Primary Panathlon Games October 2021, supporting Inclusion.



Kings Rise Academy
This year we wish to simply repeat the words of our colleague, friend and community champion, the late Jack Dromey MP, who steered us with his advice to simply 'do something to make people smile'. May he rest in peace.



www.elliottfoundation.co.uk