

The Sea View Trust

Ewood Campus, Clod Lane, Haslingden, BB4 6LR
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Chair of the Trust: Mr M Jones
Chief Executive Officer: Ms A Y Holdsworth MBE
Company Secretary: Miss F Evans



14th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Sea View Trust INSET Days

As you are aware, INSET days are days when pupils do not attend school so that school staff can access training and professional development to improve the quality of education for learners. All schools are required to have at least 5 INSET days every year and the dates are shared with parents in advance to enable parents to plan childcare.

Academy Trusts are able to decide the number of INSET days that are needed to ensure that all staff are kept up to date with current educational initiatives and to ensure that school staff are compliant with the current health and safety regulations. Over the years the amount of compliance training required in schools has significantly increased and Trust staff have informed us that there is not enough time for them to focus on improving their teaching and support skills.

We now have a requirement for all staff to attend Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Medical (including Asthma/ Epilepsy, Allergy Support etc), Cyber Security, Mental Health First Aid and Well- Being, Team Teach and Behaviour Management, Moving and Handling and Makaton Signing training, with many of these requiring annual updates. We recognise that all of the above training is vital to keep everyone safe but this means there is simply not enough time for our amazing teachers and our valuable support staff to improve the quality of their teaching and support.

The Sea View Trust Central Team and our dedicated Trustees have listened to our school and college leaders and their staff and have agreed that a sixth INSET day is needed to further support staff development. We believe that a dedicated day with a focus on improving specialist skills in subject knowledge, improving challenge for our most able and talented learners and improving specialist support for learners with additional needs and SEND will make an enormous difference to the children and young people we serve. We therefore intend to introduce a sixth INSET in the 2024-25 academic year, on Friday 18/10/24, as we feel this will reduce disruption for our families. An additional INSET day in the Autumn Term will allow skills learned to be embedded throughout the year.

We do hope that parents and carers will understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and we hope that you will support the additional INSET day as we believe that your children will significantly benefit from teaching and support staff with greater skills and knowledge.

With very best wishes,

Ms Angela Holdsworth MBE
CEO – The Sea View Trust