



Information about the Ansford Learning Partnership (ALP)

Working with Ansford Learning Partnership (ALP)

Ansford Learning Partnership is a community learning partnership of schools. ALP is made up of Ansford Academy, Castle Cary Primary School, Countess Gytha Primary School, Ditchat Primary School, Evercreech Primary School, Keinton Mandeville Primary School, Lovington Primary School and North Cadbury Primary School. The partnership teaches around 1500 students and our families come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

Our Learning Partnership offers our pupils the opportunity to work with children from other schools in a range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Events such as the regular sports festivals and tournaments that we hold enable Ansford learners to develop leadership and coaching skills when working with primary pupils in a safe and competitive environment. Primary learners also benefit from enrichment days for children with particular talents, subject specific sessions to develop the curriculum and the opportunity to perform as part of a big theatrical production.

The partnership has recently developed regular networking sessions for teachers with specific responsibilities including English, Maths, SEND, MFL and PE, ensuring that expertise is shared throughout the partnership and the latest training and updates can be cascaded out to all of the schools. We are currently working together to develop assessment procedures to complement the new curriculum. We also work together to ensure that we can access the very best Continuing Professional Development for all of our staff. This year our focus is on developing the quality of teaching and learning across the Partnership.

The ALP PFSA role is funded by Somerset Council and the funds for this are held by Ansford Academy who will be in the employing organisation.

The employing body – Ansford Academy

Ansford Academy is a smaller than average academy serving a large rural catchment area in East Somerset. We have 600 students aged between 11-16. Our students predominantly join us from our 7 feeder primary schools, however we do have a greater than average number who join us as mid-year transfers. The academy has a fully comprehensive intake with prior attainment broadly in line with the national average each year. Our school deprivation indicator score suggests that we serve an area of relative social advantage but closer inspection shows pockets of deep deprivation. On average 18% of our students are eligible for free school meals, and upwards of 20% are supported by pupil premium funding. We have a very low number of students from minority ethnic groups and below average numbers of students with SEN support. Governors and staff share an absolute commitment to ensuring that all of our students, regardless of background or ability, achieve of their best.

The academy is located on the edge of the beautiful market town of Castle Cary. This is a vibrant community that, whilst being pleasantly rural, has excellent transport links to Bath, Bristol, London and the rest of the West Country.