

# The Minerva Learning Trust



10 October 2018

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in this position. The Minerva Learning Trust was formed as a Multi Academy Trust in April 2016 when three primary schools in the Bridport area – Bridport Primary School, Burton Bradstock CE Primary School and St Mary's CE Primary School joined the Sir John Colfox Academy which was already an Academy, having converted in April 2015. The current Executive Principal, Kay Taylor, had been Headteacher at the Sir John Colfox Academy and was closely involved in setting up the Multi Academy Trust.

Over the last three years the Trust has established clear and efficient working practices, collaborated widely (particularly on Maths where they have been involved in both a SSIF Project and in work led by the Jurassic Coast Teaching Alliance) and taken many of the 'business' elements away from Heads of School so they can focus on teaching and learning. The Trust is now at the point that it can move from its 'establishing' phase to impact further on teaching and learning in the area.

Over the last two years the Trust has faced particular challenges, especially financially, with the loss of the ESG and reduced LA funding on SEND. The Trust has been proactive in dealing with this and while their overall reserves have dropped from £500,000 to around £300,000, restructuring, including reducing the EP post to 0.6, will make the Trust sustainable even if it does not grow further.

In terms of educational standards, the Trust has been successful in a number of areas. In February 2018 the Sir John Colfox Academy was inspected by Ofsted (report attached) and we were very pleased with the positive comments in the report. The three primaries are due for inspection in 2018-19.

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The Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 8561222

**The Registered office is at: The Minerva Learning Trust, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3DT**

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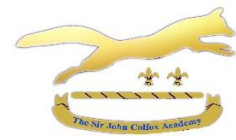
Bridport Primary School



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School



St Mary's CE Primary School



The Sir John Colfox Academy

A key feature of our Trust is our collaborative work. We have joint CPD, EYFS networks across the schools and exciting cross phase evidence based projects. In 2018-19 we will be working with Daisy Christodoulou on our assessment practice. We also have joint musical and scientific projects for pupils as well as all in the Trust being involved with the PiXL Edge initiatives as the Sir John Colfox Academy is a Centre of Excellence for this.

The Trust has a very good working relationship with the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education and hopes to develop this further. In St Mary's SIAMS Inspection they were judged to be Outstanding and Burton Bradstock was judged to be Good.

### Your Application

We hope that you feel this position is an exciting one and that you will proceed with your application. Further details on performance and finances will be made available for candidates who are short listed but the websites of the schools and the MLT website give further details.

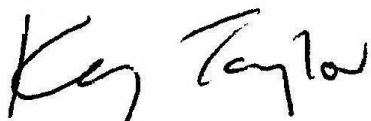
Please complete the attached application form.

In the accompanying letter please give your views on the following:

- a. The skills and experience you possess which would make you a successful Executive Principal.
- b. The issues faced by small rural primary schools and the role a Trust can play in making these sustainable.

You are very welcome to contact the chair of the Trust, Clive Bath, [chairman@minervalearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:chairman@minervalearningtrust.org.uk) or the Executive Principal, Mrs Kay Taylor, [k.taylor@minervalearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:k.taylor@minervalearningtrust.org.uk) or tel: 01308 422291 to discuss your application or to visit the schools.

We hope you have the necessary details here to support your application and we look forward to hearing from you.



**Kay Taylor**  
**Executive Principal**

Enc: Sir John Colfox Ofsted Report  
Application Form