

19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since OWN Trust came into being in March 2019, Stuart Mansell has been our Chief Executive Office, at first combining this role with being headteacher at Nene Valley Primary School, and then as full-time CEO once the school appointed a new headteacher. His contribution to the development of Nene Valley Primary School has been tremendous and the ongoing successful development of OWN Trust is down to his drive to provide fantastic opportunities for all children in our schools. The late summer term 2023 Ofsted inspection reports for all three of our schools demonstrate how securely strong our trust is. Very sadly, Stuart has decided it is now the right time to retire and, in his message to you below, he explains more fully how he has come to this decision.

In announcing his retirement so early in the academic year, Stuart has provided the trust with ample time to advertise for and then appoint a successor. The advertising campaign is about to begin, with interviews to be held before the end of spring term. Throughout the remainder of the academic year, I will ensure staff and families in our schools are fully informed about what is happening.

I know you will all join me in wishing Stuart a very long, healthy, and happy retirement as well as a sincere thank you for everything he has done for children at Nene Valley, OWN Trust schools and the other city schools during his career.

Yours sincerely,

M.C. Foreman

Mary Foreman

Chair of Trustees

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the past eighteen months there have been several achievements that have shown both OWN Trust and all three of its schools to be in a very strong position. At the start of last academic year a National Leader of Governance provided an excellent report on Governance at OWN Trust. Completed on behalf of the Department for Education, it commented very positively on the way that the Trust operates with Members, Trustees, Local Governance Committees, and senior leaders. Then, at the end of the year, in a 2-week whirlwind of activity, all 3 schools received very good Ofsted inspection reports. With new school leaders and leadership structures now firmly established across OWN Trust, it means it is in the perfect position to develop its growth strategy. Already, OWN Trust is providing support for finance, property, Information Technology, and some aspects of school improvement to several other schools within Peterborough.

With the above in mind, it is the perfect platform for OWN Trust to grow and develop. Although I have been Chief Executive Officer (CEO) since the establishment of OWN Trust in 2019, I firmly believe that this is the right time for OWN to have a new leader who can use the strengths already in place to drive this growth and see it through the next stage. For this reason I have taken the decision to retire at the end of this academic year. It is not a decision I have taken lightly. Although it is right for me personally and will give me time to spend with my three grandchildren, and my wife who retired in 2019, I wanted to ensure I could leave the Trust in the strongest possible position to support a seamless transition to new leadership. I know the Trustees and school leaders firmly believe in the vision and values that OWN Trust has established and will want these to continue to be upheld as the Trust grows under a new CEO.

Not only will this bring to an end my role as CEO at OWN trust it will also mean an end to 18 years involvement with Nene Valley Primary School. Prior to becoming CEO I held the position of Headteacher there for 16 years and have many fond memories. Since becoming CEO I have been very clear about my position as leader of all 3 schools, ensuring that all have equal access and support as part of one organisation. I am certain that they are all now in an equally strong position to contribute to the next stage of success within OWN Trust.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Mansell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Stuart Mansell

Chief Executive Officer.