

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

## A plea from the CEO of the Mowbray Education Trust

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I don't often write to the community en masse. The last time I did was in 2021, when I appealed to you to help me retain the best leadership team I have worked with in some years. You came good and helped me so much then.

I'm writing to you now in the same capacity. Living locally and having taught in the area for so long, I feel that I really do know so many of you. I also know that the community of Melton is brilliant. It is supportive, generous, fair, and kind in the very vast majority. I need your help. I am trying to develop our trust to be one of the best in the country. In order to do this, I need to be able to hold on to teachers and school leaders.

Since the pandemic, there has been a national rise in the volume of negativity about teaching, teachers, and education generally. This has impacted in Melton too. This runs alongside a very significant recruitment and retention crisis. Many many teachers up and down the country are leaving the profession, with the abuse they receive from parents being cited as a reason. The government is not recruiting enough new teachers to replace them. There is a national shortage of teachers - just teachers, never mind excellent ones, like the ones in our trust.

I'm sorry to say this negativity is impacting our community too. In 2021, I wrote that:

*'Some of our heads and staff are being given a very hard time at the moment, by a tiny number of people. It is essentially internet trolling and certainly would be recognised as harassment. I am concerned that this might well result in headteachers and staff deciding to leave our schools and possibly the profession: frankly, why would you subject yourself to that level of abuse?'*

*I am sure that the people reading this would be horrified by the personally abusive and sometimes threatening communications that have been received. I am therefore asking you to help me to ensure our headteachers are enjoying their work, be reasonable in your interactions, be fair and be kind.'*

Currently, it is worse. I know this is part of a national picture, but I am not responsible for the national, I am responsible for delivering the local. I can only do this if the brilliant people I employ, enjoy their jobs enough to stay in the profession.

Please help me to reduce the negative impact of a small minority of voices that sometimes appear to be overwhelming in their vexatious attacks on great teachers and leaders. I want those great people to teach your children without distraction.

Yours sincerely,



**Christine Stansfield**  
CEO Mowbray Education Trust