



# WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES

**Yvonne Hare**  
**Head of Communications and Projects**  
[Hare.y@whiteroseacademies.org](mailto:Hare.y@whiteroseacademies.org)  
[www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)  
@WRAcademies

## For immediate release

15 December 2020

### **Mill Field Primary joins the White Rose Academies Trust**

The White Rose Academies Trust are delighted to welcome Mill Field Primary as their first Primary school. Mill Field joins as a sponsored academy at the request of the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education.

The White Rose Academies Trust is a multi-academy trust that has an excellent track record of school improvement. In 2019, all three of its secondary academies were judged as 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted, with Leeds City Academy deemed to be 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Management.

Mill Field Primary was built in the 1930s and was previously named Potternewton Primary School, changing to Mill Field Primary School in 2007 after merging with another local primary school, Miles Hill Primary.

On joining the Trust, Mill Field Primary had an Interim Headteacher. A Trust recruitment process has now taken place and we are delighted to confirm the appointment of a new Primary Principal. As of week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Mill Field Primary will be led Ms Kate Rhodes.

Kate's teaching career began in Manchester at Old Trafford Primary in 2003 and as her career progressed, she moved across to Bradford. She has worked at Bowling Park Primary School since 2008 as an Assistant Head for Early Years Foundation Stage, Deputy Head and more recently Head of School. She has been an integral part of the Senior Leadership Team who transformed the school to be in the top 2% of schools nationally for progress.

Chief Executive Officer: **Andrew Whitaker**

P: **Bedford Field, Woodhouse Cliff, Leeds, LS6 2LG**

T: **0113 284 4260**

E: **info@whiteroseacademies.org** W: **www.whiteroseacademies.org**



@WRAcademies



@WRAcademies



The White Rose Academies Trust

The White Rose Academies Trust is a member of Luminato Education Group

**luminato**  
EDUCATION GROUP

### **When asked about her appointment as Principal, Kate said:**

"I am thrilled to be appointed as Principal at Mill Field Primary Academy and I am excited to work alongside staff, parents and the local community to ensure the children get the very best start to the education they deserve and can achieve. Mill Field Primary has been given an exciting opportunity to develop Primary education as part of a forward-thinking Multi-Academy Trust."

Andrew Whitaker, CEO of the White Rose Academies Trust, commented:

"On behalf of the Trust board, I want to express our delight at the recent appointment of Kate as the new Principal of Mill Field Primary Academy; the first primary school to join the White Rose Academies Trust.

"From application through to the two day selection process, Kate performed to a very high standard and the Trust feel fortunate that Kate has agreed to join us in this next exciting chapter for both the Trust and Kate professionally.

"This is an exciting time for Mill Field Primary, its children and the local community. We are confident that they will find our Trust to be a caring and hardworking community of educational specialists, who place the aspirations and wellbeing of our children, staff and the wider community at the heart of everything we do.

"Our Trust is committed to excellence and implementing a world-class education. In September 2016, all three of our secondary academies were at risk of being judged as 'Special Measures' by Ofsted, but, through a rapid improvement journey, all three were judged as 'Good' in May 2019.

"As evidence of our high aspirations for our students and their communities, we have recently begun a strategic partnership with High Performance Learning (HPL) that will lead to all our schools being judged as world class in the future.

"It is important to highlight our belief that Mill Field Primary Academy will further transform the Trust in to a compassionate, highly ambitious and fun place for children of all ages.

"Commenting further on behalf of the Trust Board, for the staff at Mill Field, we are confident that they will benefit individually from the family ethos that runs through every plan and strategy relating to the ongoing development of our staffing body".

The capacity of Mill Field primary is 420 students, with around 320 students currently attending. The school also has a nursery provision which can take up to 26 children.

During the work to prepare for the transfer of the school, the Trust identified many long-term maintenance issues with the building and has already secured a significant capital grant to address these issues. The planning and design work is well underway and work on this project is likely to commence in the spring term.

The Trust CEO, Andrew Whitaker and Trust Executive Principal, Christian Wilcocks presented to Mill Field colleagues after school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, to welcome them to the Trust. Following the presentation Mill Field staff shared the following comments with Trust Vice Principal, Chris Reynolds:

*"I'm so excited to be part of such a friendly and supportive team"* **Emily**

*"I am looking forward to working with a trust that has the staff wellbeing at its core"* **Simon**

*"Really looking forward to the new journey with White Rose, I really believe in the values and ethos of the trust"* **Katie**

*"Being part of a trust that supports staff with opportunity for growth is really exciting"* **Emma**

The Trust now looks forward to enacting an improvement programme which will quickly implement proven practices to improve the quality of the education provided to the inspirational children and to also introduce development opportunities for the hard working staff at this primary school.

**ENDS**



## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

### THE WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES TRUST

Following a rapid improvement programme across Leeds City Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds West Academy, the young people within the White Rose Academies Trust are now benefiting from a greatly enhanced education.

New leadership, exceptional teaching and cutting-edge facilities equip students with the unique skills and personal confidence to fully meet their aspirations and potential. The White Rose Academies Trust is a local Trust dedicated to raising and fulfilling the ambitions of young people.

Our academies throughout Leeds are at the heart of the communities they serve, which is why we are committed to delivering an outstanding education to every one of our students.

The Trust employs almost 400 outstanding professionals who are committed to unlocking the potential of the next generation.

The White Rose Academies Trust is a member of Luminate Education Group. Other members of the group include Leeds Conservatoire, Keighley College, Harrogate College and Leeds City College. In practical terms, this means that every child that attends Mill Field Primary Academy will have the opportunity to enjoy a life changing educational journey, from early years right through to adult education with the group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the White Rose Academies Trust is Andrew Whitaker. Andrew joined the White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1st September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become world class providers of education to the communities that they serve by 2025.

In 2018, Andrew was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship. Andrew's previous work includes leading the transformation of Todmorden High School.

[www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)

Website - [www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)  
Twitter - @MFPrimaryLeeds  
Facebook - Mill Field Primary Academy  
LinkedIn - The White Rose Academies Trust