

Case Study: Bridge Schools Trust



What challenges have you had to overcome to bring your vision to life and what support have you needed?

Adrian Massey – Chief Executive Bridge Schools Trust

Helping to overcome the challenge that whatever you might be presented with. Broadly money, broadly resourcing. But I think often those things can be overcome if we start at the beginning with what do we want to achieve in the arts?

Whatever the experience is for those children, understand what you're going to need to make that happen and make sure as many of those obstacles are sorted before we actually start. We've got the pieces in place to make sure the children can make progress that they need. I think sometimes creativity can be a thing that people talk about and it can be quite nebulous and difficult to describe.

But a really good experience is well planned, well thought through, resourced.

That there is money available to support it. Money is tight. As and when we're appointing new staff, we're always, as part of the interview, would ask them

"Well, what are the things are you able to bring?", "Have you got any specialist skills?", "Have you got anything that you could provide and that schools perhaps wouldn't normally have?"

If you are an organisation who perhaps doesn't have specialists of any sort then you're going to need to link in with another organisation probably, like the Arts Council. And there will be local organisations that you can talk to. What we've done it use that money to pay for specialists to come into school.

Nick Hart –Trustee, Bridge Schools Trust

So if the trustee has responsibility, it's crucial that they understand what the key priorities are across our schools. When a governor is looking at the staff development plan, they might be thinking okay, well, so what is that actually going to deliver for our pupils in terms of their learning outcomes? And again, it's a question of going back to the vision and values of the school and ensuring that in the training that the staff are going to get that year, that they will be better able to deliver real quality experiences for their pupils that they had not been able to do before in the same way.