

Inspire Partnership MAT Secures School Improvement Funding For Second Consecutive Year

Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust (IPMAT), which is made up of nine academies in the Wakefield area, has once again secured a package of Conditional Improvement Funding (CIF) from the Department for Education. The value of the awards exceeds £1 million and will be instrumental in continuing to provide the highest quality learning environments for children across the area.

There was a great deal of competition for the CIF this year, with 3,852 project proposals amounting to £1.35 billion. Only 1,466 projects were successful, including just 10 in Wakefield, 4 of which were IPMAT proposals. The Trust are extremely proud and excited about this fantastic achievement and what it means for their schools.

In 2020, IPMAT secured £1.5 million for improvements across the Trust. Through the CIF, they were able to transform the environments of all their schools to support the continued delivery of excellent education. This included replacing boilers and roofing, improving school kitchen facilities, and refreshing school interior and exteriors to provide a more welcoming environment for all.

With this year's funding, IPMAT will continue the overhaul of its schools' environments. Four of the nine schools within the Trust will benefit this year: Gawthorpe Community Academy, Fitzwilliam Primary School, Girnhill Infant School and South Hiendley Primary School. All four schools will receive upgrades to essential facilities which will lead to improved health and safety, a topic which has never been more important in light of Covid.

Jane Littlewood, Headteacher at Girnhill Infant School, has said that the school are utterly delighted to hear the news that the CIF bid has been successful. "Due to the previous CIF, the front of our school now has high fencing and an additional gate that prevents access to classrooms. In addition to ensuring that we are a safe school, this secure fencing has also enabled us to develop our outdoor learning provision and introduce a wellbeing garden," she said. "It is fair to say that this work has transformed our school with regards to safeguarding and our curriculum."

IPMAT is thrilled to be able to continue this work to improve the physical environments of their schools, benefitting the safety, wellbeing and development of all pupils throughout the Trust.