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Dear Families,

Thank you for choosing to send your child to one of our Focus-Trust academies. The start of the academic year 2017-18 provides me with an opportunity to write to you and share information about the Focus-Trust along with the leaflet accompanying this letter.

Since our sponsor, Focus Education, established us in May 2012, the Trust has steadily grown to fifteen primary academies. These are outlined on the **Where are our academies?** map on the leaflet. Within the fifteen academies we have over 6,000 children, more than 900 staff and 100 governors; every one of them is valuable to us and we have high expectations that all our academies will be the best they can for your child. Attending a Focus-Trust academy means your child will be provided with a great education in a high-quality learning environment. We are fortunate to have excellent Principals, Head Teachers, staff teams and local governing boards. All the staff in your child's academy are in a privileged position to be able to enable your child to learn from ambitious first-hand experiences and encourage them to thrive, achieve and succeed as outlined in our '**Pupil Offer**'.

Everyone in the Focus-Trust works hard to make our commitment a reality: **Learning together, making the difference**. Last year all the teachers in your child's academy joined teachers from the fourteen other academies and took part in extensive professional development to improve your children's reading, writing and maths. Teachers and leaders from across the Trust meet up regularly and visit each other's academies to learn from research and great practice. We are like a family where we want everyone to learn together, try their very best and share their excellent ideas.

Last year over a thousand children from across the Trust met up with each other and participated in our Music Festival, Choral Speaking Festival and various Science and sporting events. In 2018 we will be having a 'Pride in the Trust Day' when children from across the Trust will meet each other and take part in activities relating to our Trust Values **Fair, Care, Share and Dare** and the **British Values of Tolerance and Respect, Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Learning**.

Over the next few weeks you will receive an **Annual Report** from your Principal/Head Teacher. This opens with a statement explaining our view of your child's academy. Please do read this report which outlines 2016-17's successes and the priorities for 2017-18. During the year, your academy will ask you for your views on many areas of school life. Please take time to complete these surveys as we are always very keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions for ongoing improvement. It is important that we all work in partnership together to educate your child.

I know many of you follow your academies on Twitter and Facebook. I hope you also get the chance to visit our Focus-Trust website [www.focus-trust.co.uk](http://www.focus-trust.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter @FocusTrust1 to see what we are all up to. As always, my team look forward to spending time over the next few weeks and months in your child's academy, classrooms and playground and hope that we get the opportunity to meet you and your child.

With best wishes for a happy and successful 2017-18.

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Helen Rowland - Chief Executive of Focus-Trust