

# The Meridian Trust SENDCO Network

The Meridian Trust SENDCO Network meetings are held six times per year to provide all SENDCOs in the trust with:

## Opportunities to share good SEND practice

- Meridian Trust has a wide range of different Primary, Secondary and Special schools with knowledgeable and experienced SENDCOs. It is crucial that SENDCOs have opportunities to learn from and share with each other.
- A recent example: *SENDCOs from Primary, Secondary and Special schools were invited to share systems and documents that they utilise as part of the assess, plan, do, review (APDR) cycle.*

## SENDCO specific training

- Informed by SENDCO survey responses
- A recent example: *Developing Good Autism Practice*

## Trust-wide SEND training

- Informed by SEND Quality Assurance process
- A recent example: *All Meridian Trust SENDCOs were provided with resources and guidance to enable them to deliver a setting-specific training session about APDR.*

## Coproduction of Meridian Trust SEND documents

- The SENDCO Network meetings provide an ideal forum for creating and updating key documents
- Recent examples: *Our SENDCO Network updated the Meridian SEND Policy and contributed to the Meridian Ordinarily Available Provision document.*

## Feedback from SENDCOs:

*“thanks for such a positive meeting today. It was so nice to do introductions and there was a great team vibe!!”*

*“thank you to you all for the SENDCO meeting on Tuesday, it was a delight to have a meeting lead by such a knowledgeable and engaging team.....I found it informative and thought provoking....”*



Mary joined Meridian Trust in September 2017 following her role as an HMI and one of Ofsted's National Leads for SEND. During her time with Ofsted, she introduced the Local Area SEND inspections. Mary has substantial leadership and management experience in all-through special schools and mainstream secondary schools. As well as being an Advanced Skills Teacher, Mary has held senior leadership and consultancy posts in schools in the East of England.



Amy joined Meridian Trust in September 2021 and has worked in SEND education for 20 years. She started her career at Friars School in Wellingborough where she discovered a passion for working with children and young people on the autism spectrum. She has also worked as a peripatetic autism teacher, specialist SEND teacher and autism advisory teacher in Peterborough. Amy is a qualified SENDCO and recently completed an MEd (with distinction) in Special Education: Autism (Children) at the University of Birmingham.



Becky Dear has been a primary SENCo for about 18 years and currently works as Assistant Head Inclusion at Sawtry Junior Academy, with a part-time role in the Meridian Trust core SEND Team. Becky enjoys developing new SENCos in other Meridian schools, enabling them to enhance the SEND support within their own school. Becky has two boys who have Special Educational Needs; both with EHCPs. This has given her greater insight into how supporting the whole family is central to helping children progress and enjoy school.



Kathy Bacon has 30 years experience in mainstream schools and two years in our area special school Martin Bacon Academy. As an Assistant Head in both settings, Kathy has a wealth of leadership experience in SEND and Primary leadership. Kathy is a qualified SENDCO and holds a range of accreditations including Webster Stratton, TEACCH and Elklan Level 3.