

Ref: CG/MNR

May 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

At a meeting of the school Governing Body on 4th May 2011 it was decided to:

- change school category from Community to Foundation;
- adopt a charitable Trust named The Co-operative Learning Partnership Trust, which shall be a co-operative membership trust;
- with effect from 16th May 2011.

This is in line with the consultation and published statutory proposal.

The decision was taken as the Governing Body believe the Trust will raise standards through the creation of a platform for on-going improvement. The resources and expertise brought to the Trust by the partners will strengthen strategic leadership, increase support and challenge and consolidate effective monitoring, thereby promoting improvement in outcomes for students.

The mutual co-operative nature of the membership trust with its high levels of stakeholder involvement and accountability will greatly assist in further raising the profile of education and the extended schools/Every Child Matters agenda across our community and lead to enhanced community cohesion.

This decision followed a wide consultation process during which all relevant parties were consulted and consultation meetings were held for students, staff, parents and the general public and unions and trade associations were consulted. Statutory guidance was followed and the views of those consulted were considered by the Governing Body prior to the required Statutory Proposal being published. All representations made in response to the Statutory Proposal were considered prior to the Governing Body deciding to proceed to implementation.

The Trust will contribute to the advancement of education in The Co-operative Learning Partnership Trust by working with partners. The Trust will make a difference in the following ways:

To improve the life chances of every child in every school within the Trust

By developing sustainable, successful partnerships throughout the Trust in a wide range of activities both social and educational carefully designed and tailored to raise aspirations and make meaningful contributions to every child's development.

To raise standards of achievement

By developing throughout the Trust a stronger collaborative approach including opportunities for joint training, CPD, cross curriculum projects, shared resources, shared coaching, mentoring and evaluation. We will use and develop ICT and new technologies to enrich learning experiences for all. In particular to collaborate on sharing best practice to develop the quality of teaching and learning for the benefit of children and young people.

To improve the opportunities for lifelong learning for all

By working with our Trust partners and with all in the Trust to enhance and secure a wide range of opportunities for children, young people and their families both in and out of school hours. Our Trust partners will work with us to provide enhanced family learning and enable us to access resources and expertise which can make these activities sustainable.

To increase sustainable community involvement

By working closely with all our partners to provide an improved level of support for families to enable all our children and young people to play a full part in developing activities within the community. By drawing together planned, coherent and sustainable and equitably shared development we will utilise all of the many areas of community to the advantage of all.

As a co-operative trust a Stakeholder Forum representing the various constituencies of membership shall be developed in the trust's first year. (Further details will be provided in the near future.) This Forum will represent the membership and hold the Trust to account. It shall also appoint 2 Trustees to the Trust Board.

The school will continue to be run and managed by the Governing Body as before with the additional benefits of Trust partners and 2 Trust nominated Governors to assist us in our future developments.

The Governing Body will replace the Local Authority as the Admissions Authority but shall continue to operate the current admissions arrangements, though reserving the right to review them as appropriate. The Governing Body also remains bound by the National Code of Conduct on Fair Admissions. Additionally the school's land and assets will now going forward, be held in trust by the new co-operative trust.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



C Gager
Chair of the Governing Body