



Changing to a Foundation Trust School Category and Acquiring a Charitable Trust

This leaflet provides an overall summary of the full consultation Booklet One, 'Changing to Foundation Trust Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'. This is available from the office school and our website. Also available is Booklet Two, 'Questions and Answers'.

Our Proposal

The Governing Boards of Chase Terrace Primary School, Highfields Primary School, Holly Grove Primary School and Ridgeway Primary School are proposing to change its legal school category from community to foundation and at the same time acquire a Trust by joining the Burntwood Co-operative Learning Trust.

What is a trust school?

This is a type of school that, while still being part of the Staffordshire Local Authority family of maintained schools, has the opportunity to be supported by a charitable Trust set up to help the drive for improved standards within schools, in particular, though engaging with the wider community.

What is a Co-operative Trust School?

The Co-operative Trust model enables schools to set themselves up as co-operatives, following co-operative values and principles. An important attraction for us in the co-operative school model is that it will ensure that the historic co-operative values and ethos, as well as its ethical principles and co-operative ways of working are formally embedded in our school. In many ways we already subscribe to these.

What is different about a co-operative foundation trust such as Burntwood Co-operative Learning Trust is that the trust itself is a co-operative. This means that over time stakeholders, be they staff, parents, carers, people who work and live locally and vitally our pupils can also join the trust as members. Local family members of our pupils as well as past pupils themselves can also join the Trust. In due course there will be the opportunity for other groups or bodies such as other schools and educational establishments to join the Trust.

This is potentially very important as we believe (based on evidence from elsewhere) that this will help us to further raise participation and attainment levels. The co-operative trust school model means, that in a very real sense, schools will be increasingly owned mutually by their parents, pupils and staff plus their wider communities.

Burntwood Co-operative Learning Trust

The trust we are proposing to acquire, is the Burntwood Co-operative Learning Trust.

Why are we considering it?

For some time our senior leadership team and the Governing Boards have been looking at the various options available to us in terms of the legal status of the school including both Academy and Foundation Trust. After a great deal of thought and discussion, we decided to further explore the co-operative foundation trust model. The Governing Board at full Governing Board meeting decided to take this a stage further by agreeing to consult on proposals to become a Co-operative Trust School.

History of working closely with local schools.

We already work closely in an informal manner with many of our local schools – primary and other secondary schools. Our hope is that forming the Trust will help us build a strong partnership of schools supported by the Trust which will work together to further improve standards, outcomes and services for children, young people and their families within our local school communities.

If you have any queries about anything you have read here or require copies of any of the consultation documents, please contact your school office.

Rationale for becoming foundation and acquiring Trust

Becoming legally a shared Trust will help us to clarify our vision and aims, continue to raise expectations and standards across our area, and make our existing collaboration and associated school improvement strategies more sustainable. We believe that to meet the needs of our communities we need to work together as a community. We know that we can achieve more by working together than we can by working alone. A shared Trust would help to make that belief a reality.

Formalising this collaborative work can only strengthen our joint achievements. We believe that it will help us to:

- Further improve outcomes for all our learners in all of our local schools with strengthened focus on school to school improvement.
- Support each school to be at least Good with the ambition for schools to become great
- Strengthen our ability to work collaboratively and co-operatively to enable our schools to grow, develop and improve together.
- Formalise and further develop arrangements already in place for joint working.
- Develop skills and expertise of staff across the schools.
- Further share resources and skills between schools.
- Further raise levels of aspiration across our school communities thereby impacting positively on standards.

What would stay the same?

The school would continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive the same Local Authority funding, and be subject to OFSTED inspection. It would also remain part of the Staffordshire Local Authority family of schools.

Our Governing Board would remain fully responsible for the school's delegated budget and overseeing the running of the school.

The Governing Board would legally employ staff. It also would become responsible for our own admissions arrangements, and continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code and statutory SEN guidance and legislation. The admissions process would continue to be administered by the Local Authority.

Teachers would automatically continue to be employed on the same terms and conditions and we would make sure that this was also true for support staff, resulting in all staff staying on their existing pay and conditions.

What would change?

School grounds and buildings would be held in Trust rather than by the Local Authority.

The Trust will appoint 2 Foundation Governors to support and strengthen the Governing Board.

It will also set up a Members Forum to represent the views of all members of the Trust including parents / carers, staff, pupils and the local community.

Consultation

The consultation is open to everyone who may be affected by the proposed changes: parents/carers, students, staff, governors, potential partners and wider school communities.

There will be plenty of time and lots of opportunity during the consultation period for you to find out more and make your views known.

You can let us know what you think about the proposals by doing one or more of the following:

- A. Completing and returning the public consultation questionnaire which you have been sent.
- B. Sending in your comments to the school.
- C. If you are a parent / carer, member of staff or a member of the public, coming to the appropriate meeting to discuss the proposals.

Consultation meetings

Audience	Date	Time	Venue
Staff	Tuesday 26 th September 2017	4.30pm	Chase Terrace Primary
Parents and Carers	Tuesday 26 th September 2017	8.45am 11am 12.30pm 2pm	Ridgeway Primary Highfields Primary Holly Grove Primary Chase Terrace Primary
Public	Tuesday 26 th September 2017	6pm	Chase Terrace Primary

Learners will be consulted via Student Voice / Student Council, assemblies and a range of other internal school mechanisms.

You can comment on the proposals at any time from noon on 21st September 2017 and 5th October 2017.

After this statutory consultation closes at noon on 30th November 2017 all comments oral and written will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Boards. This report will be made available on the school websites. It will be available for inspection by stakeholders on request. The Governing Board will then hold a meeting to review the report and all the comments made before reaching an informed decision.

The Governing Board may decide to:

- Adopt the proposals;

- Modify the proposals in the light of suggestions made during the consultation and if the changes are significant, consult again on the changes;
- Decide not to proceed and to remain as a Community school;
- Pause the process.

The proposed implementation date for joining the Trust is 1st January 2018. All comments made and views returned will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Boards. This report will be published on the school websites.