



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that the governing bodies of all four schools involved in the Cooperative Learning Trust proposals are happy to move on to the next stage of the consultation.

The next stage is the formal consultation stage which starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and completes on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The governing bodies of all four schools will meet on 5<sup>th</sup> December to review the completed consultation. Each Governing Body will decide then or soon after on whether to complete the process to become a Cooperative Trust which would start on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

A total of 14 questionnaires were received following over 235 consultation documents being sent to all parents/carers, staff and governors of the school as well as to a significant number of interested parties. 12 were from parents, 2 from staff.

Thank you to those that gave their opinions. These were taken into consideration when governing bodies were deciding on whether to proceed to the formal consultation stage.

Information/confirmation was requested in a number of areas:

- There was a suggested change of wording for the vision statement which will be carefully considered by the four schools involved.
- In regards to budgets, each school will still have their own budget which will not be shared or given to the other schools in any circumstances. There will be no extra money received because we are a cooperative trust. Any money raised by the individual schools will be kept by the individual schools unless it has specifically been raised to support activities across the trust such as for trust sporting events. It will be made clear on the outset if the fundraising is to be for the trust.
- In regards to sharing of resources, an element of this already happens. But as stated above all money allocated to our school is used on our pupils/school alone and not on pupils from other schools.
- In regards to trustees of the trust board, there will be 2 from each school, the headteacher and the chair of governors. All governing bodies are keen that that each school keeps its own character and identity to reflect the needs of their own community, children, parents and carers. The headteachers have already put into

place documents to ensure that there is no interference with this from the trust and these were shared at the informal consultation process.

- In regards to job loses, there will be no job losses due to the conversion to trust. Staff have received assurances from the school governors and from the Local Authority regarding their employment. As we will still be maintained by the Local Authority we will still be bound by the same terms and conditions of employment. All the trade unions connected with our staff have been involved in the consultation and all support this conversion.
- In regards to one of the schools deciding to become an academy, this would mean that the trust would reduce to three schools but would continue to function as normal.
- In regards to making it clear to prospective parents about the school status, we would continue to market our school as an individual school but we would make it clear we work collaboratively as part of a trust. We will provide information within our packs which sets out what this means.
- In regards the impact on the children during the conversion, there will be no impact on the children as this conversion takes place. From the children's perspective they will only see the addition of greater inter school activities. As time goes on the impact will be on the quality of education that they receive due to better collaboration between teachers and professionals sharing good practice.

Thank you again for your participation in the informal consultation process.

The formal consultation process commences on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November and further comments are welcomed.

Yours sincerely



Mark Wilkes  
Headteacher