



Lemington Riverside Primary School

Proposed Outer West Learning Trust

Eleven Outer West schools namely: Beech Hill Primary, Lemington Riverside Primary, Milecastle Primary, Newburn Manor Primary, Simonside Primary, Throckley Primary, Walbottle Campus, Walbottle Village Primary, Waverley Primary, West Denton Primary and Westerhope Primary are proposing to become foundation schools and jointly set up a Trust.

The proposed Trust will have five founder partners: one of which will be Newcastle Local Authority; one from Higher Education; and up to three partners from business or charities.

This leaflet provides a summary of the full Consultation Booklet 1. A second booklet which gives answers to frequently asked questions is available on each school website. Response forms are available from each school and should **be returned to that school by noon 1st July 2013.**

The Consultation Process

This stage of the process runs from:

Noon Monday 3rd June to noon on Monday 1st July

There will be plenty of opportunity during the 4 week consultation phase for you to find out more and make your views known. (There will also be a second consultation phase in autumn term if Governing Bodies decide to publish a Statutory Notice.)

Our consultation meeting for Parents will be held on Tuesday 11th June at 6pm in school

Current partnership and new proposals

The eleven named schools have long worked together for mutual benefit. The Headteachers meet together regularly to share ideas and this has helped our schools to improve by sharing good practice.

This collaborative working has provided the foundation for establishing a common set of aims and values. These have been further developed with governors as the vision and values of the proposed Trust.

The specific focus of the Trust will be to build a shared learning community in which children, young people, staff, parents and other partners discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that endures through their lives.

Our children will:

- be inspired to be people of character with a lasting passion for learning,
- develop an enduring core of competencies and values,
- have the capabilities to thrive in the 21st Century globalised world,
- experience a safe and joyful childhood.

All schools in the Outer West Trust will:

- have high quality staff who have excellent opportunities for development
- provide a stimulating, relevant and enjoyable curriculum,
- create a learning environment that shares and reflects best practice and current educational research,
- cultivate every child's skills, enabling them to realise tomorrow's dreams
- work with families and the wider community to enable the best outcomes for children and young people

We will work in a way together which espouses the values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. We will endeavour at all times to be honest and open and show social responsibility and caring for others.

The Trust will deepen, extend and build sustainability of our partnership working so as to drive further improvements in standards and increase opportunities for pupils, staff and families.

Other schools may express an interest in becoming full or associate members of the Trust in the future.

The consultation is open to everyone who might be affected by the proposed changes: parents/cares, pupils, staff, governors, potential partners, the wider community.

What is a Trust School?

A Trust school is a Local Authority maintained school which is supported by a Trust. Trusts can be set up by individual schools or groups of schools and usually involve collaboration with partners.

If we became a Trust school what would change and what would remain the same?

Stay the same:

Each school would continue to have its own Governing Body which would still be responsible for the school including the maintenance of the buildings.

The schools would continue to teach the National Curriculum, follow the schools Admissions Code and be inspected by Ofsted. They would still receive funding from the Local Authority and be part of the Newcastle family of schools.

Staff will be employed on the same terms and conditions.

Change:

Each Governing Body would be the employer of the staff instead of the Local Authority.

The buildings and grounds of each school would be held by the Trust rather than the Local Authority.

The Trust would be responsible for appointing two governors to each school Governing Body.

If so much would stay the same why are we considering changing?

The main reason is that we think that by establishing closer collaboration between each other and a small number of partners that we will be able to be even more effective in bringing about improvements in each school.

Through the purchasing power of the Trust we can create economies of scale that would enable us to get more from our budgets.

As the Trust would be a charitable organisation we would also be eligible to bid for funds which schools are not allowed to access.

The partners we wish to work with are unlikely to work with individual schools and their input and expertise working with a Trust Board are likely to be of broad benefit to the schools.

The process we need to go through:

1. Each Governing Body goes through a consultation process about becoming a Trust with all stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff, governors and other members of the community). This runs for 4 weeks from Monday 3rd June to Monday 1st July (12 noon)
2. Each Governing Body receives a report about the outcomes of the consultation and then considers the consultation responses. (Between 8th and 18th July).
3. Governing Bodies draw up revised proposals if needed, and hold another consultation on revised proposals if needed.
4. If no changes are made, the Governing Bodies will issue a Statutory Notice about proposals to become a Trust.
5. Governing Bodies would then consider any response to the Statutory Notices and make a final decision about whether to proceed or not. (By 25th October)
6. Any schools deciding to proceed work through employment and land and buildings legalities.
7. Proposed date for Trust being established **1st January 2014.**