

## EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS & NEW PROPOSALS

We will continue to work with a range of schools within and beyond Middlesbrough, including or existing collaborative arrangements. One of our proposed partners is MSTA (Middlesbrough Schools' Teaching Alliance). This is an alliance representing all primaries and most secondary schools in Middlesbrough.

By working together we will achieve more than we can as individual schools working alone, both in terms of quality of teaching and learning and in value for money.

It is envisaged that, over time, other schools may wish to consult to join the Trust through the agreed protocol. Other schools not in a position to join as full members may be invited to join as Partner Schools.

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

The Middlesbrough Co-operative Learning Trust will be guided by the values and principles promoted by the global Co-operative Movement, namely:

- Self-responsibility
- Self-help
- Equality
- Co-operative values
- Solidarity
- Democracy
- Ethical values
- Equity

## THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

*This stage of the process runs from:*  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**

*Consultation meetings are being held as follows:*

**Wednesday 2nd April** - for **Staff** of all consulting schools - 4:00-5:00pm at MTLC, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough TS3 8PE (NB: there will also be a pre-meeting from 2:30-3:30pm with staff unions)

**Wednesday 2nd April – Public Consultation**  
5:30-6:30pm at MTLC, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, TS3 8PE

Separate meetings for **Parents and Carers** of learners at each consulting school will take place as follows:

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Archibald Primary 3:00pm

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** – Newport Hub 2:00pm  
(Other language support incl. Czech, Arabic, Polish, Urdu French, Romanian)

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** – Breckon Hill Primary 2:15pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Abingdon Primary 2:00pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Berwick Hills Primary 3:20pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Thorntree Primary 4:30pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Acklam Whin Primary 6:00pm

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** – Newport Primary 3:15pm

*Even if you are unable to attend any of these meetings, your views are still welcome. Simply complete the attached response form and return it to any of the seven schools.*

## MIDDLESBROUGH CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST



The Governing Bodies of seven local primary schools; Abingdon Primary, Acklam Whin Primary, Archibald Primary, Berwick Hills Primary, Breckon Hill Primary, Newport Primary and Thorntree Primary are proposing to become foundation schools and jointly set up a trust, in this case a mutual co-operative learning trust: to be known as 'Middlesbrough Cooperative Learning Trust.' The Trust will also be supported in partnership with Middlesbrough Schools Teaching Alliance and Middlesbrough Local Authority. The University of York has also expressed interest in becoming a partner in our Trust.

This leaflet provides an overall summary of the full consultation Booklet One, 'Changing from Community to Foundation School Category and Acquiring a Charitable Trust.' This is available from each school – and their websites – see below; similarly available is Booklet Two, 'Questions and Answers.'

[abingdon.primarysite.net](http://abingdon.primarysite.net)  
[www.take2theweb.com/pub/middlesbrough/acklamwhin](http://www.take2theweb.com/pub/middlesbrough/acklamwhin)  
[www.schoolsweb.org.uk/archibald](http://www.schoolsweb.org.uk/archibald)  
[www.sbcschools.org.uk/berwickhills](http://www.sbcschools.org.uk/berwickhills)  
[www.schoolswire.org/public/breckon314.html](http://www.schoolswire.org/public/breckon314.html)  
[www.schoolsweb.org.uk/newport](http://www.schoolsweb.org.uk/newport)  
[schoolswire.org/public/thorntree997.html](http://schoolswire.org/public/thorntree997.html)

## WHAT IS A FOUNDATION TRUST SCHOOL?

This is a Local Authority (LA) maintained foundation school which is supported by a charitable trust. Trusts can be set up by individual schools or groups of schools, and involve formal collaboration with partners. Becoming a 'foundation' school involves some legal changes from being a 'community' school which is our current category. The seven schools are interested in the co-operative trust model, which links schools together mutually using co-operative principles and allows stakeholders to become members of the Trust.

The Trust would be its own social and educational co-operative, adopting co-operative values and principles. There are over 400 schools nationally that are now co-operative schools, the fastest growing network of schools in England. There is also a strong international co-operative school movement.

### Process Timescale

Consultation begins:	<b>Weds. 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>
And finishes:	<b>Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
Proposed implementation	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2014</b>

## IF WE BECAME A TRUST, WHAT WOULD STAY THE SAME AND WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

There will be plenty of opportunity during the 4 week consultation period for you to find out more and make your views known. You can comment at any time from noon on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014** to noon on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**. There will be further opportunity to submit your views during the statutory period should the governing body of your school choose to proceed following the consultation.

### These Things Would Stay the Same:

Each school would:

- continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive the same Local Authority (LA) funding, and be OFSTED inspected.
- remain part of the LA family of schools.
- have its own Governing Body remaining responsible for running its own school.
- retain its own identity e.g. logo, uniform etc.

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. Essentially all staff remain on their existing pay and conditions.

### These Things Would Change:

Each Governing Body (not the LA), would now legally employ staff and also become responsible for its own admissions, but would be bound by the School Admissions Code. School assets (grounds and buildings) would be held by the Trust (mutually), rather than the LA.

The Trust will appoint 2 governors to support and strengthen each Governing Body.

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. This holds the Trust accountable to its members.

## IF SO MUCH IS GOING TO STAY THE SAME, WHY CHANGE?

We think that, by working more closely together, we can help our schools to be more successful, speeding up the impact of current school improvement strategies. We also think that there are a number of costs we can share, to free up more money for work with pupils. Our schools already benefit from working together and shared trust status will increase co-operation between schools for the benefit of all involved.

The model we have chosen is a co-operative trust which is based on co-operative principles and values. This would help us to involve parents, staff and pupils more in the running of their school - and to work more closely with the local community, helping to raise aspirations further across our school communities.

Trust status will help us to establish strong long-term partnerships with key partners who would help increase resources and opportunities for staff and pupils at a time when the role and function of local education authorities is being greatly and rapidly reduced.

The Middlesbrough Co-operative Learning Trust will provide a strong and well-tested legal entity through which to collaborate with our partners for the benefit of our learners.

Our vision is to use the strength of the Trust to create a community which seeks to raise the enjoyment, achievement and aspirations for all, ensuring children and families are supported through their learning journey and school life in pursuit of excellence. The values of the Trust are underpinned by the principles of equality, inclusion and commitment to support the well-being of every child and their family in our schools.

