



3rd October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

At a meeting of the school Governing Body on 1st October 2014 it was decided to:

- change school category from Community to Foundation;
- adopt a charitable Trust named Market Drayton Learning Partnership, which shall be a co-operative membership trust;
- with effect from 1st December 2014

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 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 pupils, staff, parents and the general public and unions and trade associations were consulted. Statutory guidance was followed and the Governing Body published the Statutory Proposal on 6th June 2014. All representations made in response to the Statutory Proposal were considered prior to the Governing Body deciding to proceed to implementation.

The formation of the Trust will focus the minds and energies of all partners on the task of raising attainment and increasing opportunities for enjoyment and achievement across this community.

By bringing coherence and continuity to lifelong learning at a time when Local Authority services will be diminishing and schools will increasingly find themselves

working alone, the Trust provides the means of bringing local schools together to serve a common purpose and to provide continuous pathways to enjoyment, learning and achievement from early years to adulthood and beyond.

By making efficient and effective use of resources, the Trust will provide schools with significant collective bargaining power in their negotiations with suppliers of goods and services. This will enable them to secure best value and prioritise funding for teaching and learning. The Trust will also encourage schools to pool expertise and resources to enable them to maximise the benefits for staff and students.

By providing the motivation of membership, a number of partnerships, have demonstrated the value of treating customers and employees as members. The Trust will extend the offer of membership to parents, pupils, employees and community groups. This will have the value not only of identifying specific benefits for each of these groups, but also enlisting their support in achieving the aims of the Trust.

The Trust will contribute to the advancement of education and 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 bringing about rapid improvement in outcomes for students.

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 Trustees to the Trust Board.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ingham

Chair of the Governing Body