



Thorntree Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs S.M.Picknett

17th July 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

At a meeting of the school Governing Body on 14th July 2014 it was decided to:

- change school category from Community to Foundation;
- adopt a charitable Trust named the Middlesbrough Co-operative Learning Trust, which shall be a co-operative membership trust.

This is in line with the consultation and published statutory proposal and will come into effect from 1st September 2014.

The decision was taken as the Governing Body, along with the Governing Bodies of the other schools that consulted on the same proposal, believe that 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 schools 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/Every Child Matters agenda across our community and lead to enhanced community cohesion.

This decision followed a wide consultation process during which all relevant parties were consulted. Statutory guidance was followed and the views of those consulted were considered by the Governing Body prior to the required Statutory Proposal being published. All representations made in response to the Statutory Proposal were considered prior to the Governing Body deciding to proceed to implementation.



We believe the proposed changes will improve the life chances of our children and young people across Middlesbrough, by:

- Ensuring consistently high expectations across all our schools, among pupils, parents, carers and staff
- Ensuring robust, local accountability through mutual challenge and support
- Enabling all pupils to access high quality teaching and learning experiences by sharing ‘best practice’, resources and staff within the partnership and developing creative approaches to help us raise standards more consistently across our schools
- Working more effectively with parents, carers and the wider community to promote health and well-being, develop a more aspirational culture, based on more integrated approaches with other partners working with our children and families such as health, social care, sport and leisure
- Working with a range of external partners to further develop our creativity in providing wider cultural opportunities for pupils, families and community learning
- Strengthening our commitment to a global perspective based on the principles of co-operative values:- respect, social justice and democracy
- The values and ethical principles of the Co-operative Movement, especially the ideals of self-help and responsibility, as well as active membership, will underpin the work of the schools – and the Trust.

As a co-operative trust a Stakeholder Forum representing the various constituencies of membership shall be developed. 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,

S.M.Picknett

