



Hamilton School
Striving to be a great school where people work together to transform lives

Longwill
a primary school for Deaf children



Changing to a Foundation Trust School Category and Acquiring a Charitable Trust

This leaflet provides an overall summary of the full consultation Booklet One, 'Changing to Foundation Trust Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'. This is available from the office school and our website. Also available is Booklet Two, 'Questions and Answers'.

Our Proposal

The Governing Boards of Baskerville; Dame Ellen Pinsent; Fox Hollies; Hamilton; Longwill; Pines and Uffculme Special Schools are proposing to change its legal school category from community to foundation and at the same time acquire a Trust by joining the **Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust**.

What is a trust school?

This is a type of school that, while still being part of the Birmingham Local Authority family of maintained schools, has the opportunity to be supported by a charitable Trust set up to help the drive for improved standards within schools, in particular, through engaging with the wider community.

What is a Co-operative Trust School?

The Co-operative Trust model enables schools to set themselves up as co-operatives, following co-operative values and principles.

What is different about a co-operative foundation trust such as Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust is that the trust itself is a co-operative. This means that over time stakeholders, be they staff, parents, carers, people who work and live within our defined community and vitally our learners can also join the trust as members. In due course there will be the opportunity for other groups or bodies such as other schools and educational establishments to join the Trust. This is very important as this will help us to raise participation and achievement. Another important attraction for us in the co-operative school model is that it will ensure that the historic co-operative values and ethos, as well as its ethical principles and co-operative ways of working are formally embedded in our schools. These are values to which we already subscribe.

Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust

The trust we are proposing to acquire, is the Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust.

Why are we considering it?

For some time our senior leadership team and the Governing Boards have been looking at the various options available to us in terms of the legal status of the school including both Academy and Foundation Trust. After a great deal of thought and discussion, we decided to further explore the co-operative foundation trust model.

Each Governing Board has passed a formal resolution to take this a stage further by agreeing to consult on proposals to become a Co-operative Trust school.

History of working closely with local schools.

We already work closely in an informal manner with the schools who are consulting to form the Trust. Our vision is to use the strength of the Trust to build on and strengthen what our informal partnership working with other schools has already achieved and to create a learning community which seeks further to improve teaching and learning, to raise enjoyment, achievement and aspirations for all and to ensure learners and their families are supported.

If you have any queries about anything you have read here or require copies of any of the consultation documents, please contact your school office.

Rationale for becoming foundation and acquiring Trust

Creating a shared Trust will help us to clarify our vision and aims, continue to raise expectations and standards across schools, and make our existing collaboration and associated school improvement strategies more sustainable. We believe that to meet the needs of our communities we need to work together as a community. We know that we can achieve more by working together than we can by working alone. A shared Trust would help to make that belief a reality.

Key aims for our Trust are to:

- Ensure world class special education for the pupils and learners of Trust schools;
- Further improve outcomes for all our learners in all our member schools with a strengthened focus on school-to-school self-improvement;
- Furthering an inclusive philosophy within the city and region for the benefit of Trust schools and partners and the learners of the city with SEN;
- Strengthen our ability to work collaboratively and co-operatively to enable our schools to grow, develop and improve together;
- Formalise and further develop arrangements already in place for joint working;
- Develop further the skills and expertise of staff across the schools;
- Further share resources and skills across the schools;
- Further increase levels of aspiration across our schools and the wider community thereby impacting positively upon achievement;

What would stay the same?

The school would continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive the same Local Authority funding, and be subject to OFSTED inspection.

Our Governing Board would remain fully responsible for the school's delegated budget and overseeing the running of the school.

The school will remain part of the Birmingham Local Authority family of maintained schools We will continue to adhere to The Code of Practice in relation to admissions.

What would change?

School grounds and buildings would be held in Trust rather than by the Local Authority.

The Governing Board would legally employ staff.

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, resulting in all staff staying on their existing pay and conditions.

The school Governing Board will have the additional designation of Foundation Governors. There will be two Foundation Governors on each board.

It will also set up a Members Forum to represent the views of all members of the Trust including parents / carers, staff, learners and the community.

Consultation

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

There will be plenty of time and lots of opportunity during the consultation period for you to find out more and make your views known.

You can let us know what you think about the proposals by doing one or more of the following:

- A. Completing and returning the public consultation questionnaire which you have been sent.
- B. Sending in your comments to the school.
- C. If you are a parent / carer, member of staff or a member of the public, coming to the appropriate meeting to discuss the proposals.

Consultation meetings

Audience	Date	Time	Venue
Staff	24 th January 2018	8am 12.00pm 4.00pm	Dame Ellen Pinsent Longwill Fox Hollies
	26 th January 2018	8.00am 3.00pm	Pines Baskerville
Parents and Carers	24 th January 2018	9.30am 11.00am 1.30pm	Dame Ellen Pinsent Longwill Fox Hollies
	26 th January 2018	9.15am 10.30am 11.45am	Pines Hamilton Baskerville
Public	24 th January 2018	6.00pm	Fox Hollies
	26 th January 2018	4.00pm	Baskerville

Learners will be consulted via Student Voice / Student Council, assemblies and a range of other internal school mechanisms.

You can comment on the proposals at any time from noon on 15th January 2018 and 29th January 2018.

After this statutory consultation closes at noon on 26th March 2018 all comments oral and written will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Boards. This report will be made available on the school websites. It will be available for inspection by stakeholders on request. The Governing Board will then hold a meeting to review the report and all the comments made before reaching an informed decision.

The Governing Board may decide to:

- Adopt the proposals;
- Modify the proposals in the light of suggestions made during the consultation and if the changes are significant, consult again on the changes;
- Decide not to proceed and to remain as a Community school;
- Pause the process.

The proposed implementation date for joining the Trust is 1st May 2018. All comments made and views returned will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Boards. This report will be published on the school websites.