

# Buxton Primary School

Aylsham Road, Buxton, Norwich, NR10 5EZ

Telephone: 01603 279357 Fax: 01603 279296

Email: [head@buxton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@buxton.norfolk.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss Deborah Leahy



January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

### **Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust**

Dear Consultee,

Buxton Primary School is considering becoming a Trust School and the Governing Body has passed a resolution to consult about changing from a Community school to a Foundation School acquiring a charitable trust – The Aylsham Cluster Trust. This letter is to explain our ideas and proposals as part of our consultation process and to ask for your views. We have also included within this letter details of the consultation process as well as a summary of our proposals.

#### **Our Proposed Trust**

Trust schools are a new kind of maintained state school - part of the Local Authority system, but supported by a charitable Trust that will appoint some, but not a majority, of the governors. The Governing Body will continue to run the school and be responsible for its performance and Mrs D Leahy will continue as Head Teacher. We shall still maintain our strengths as a primary school, serving our local community and as part of the Local Authority family of schools. Our Governors are proposing to establish, through a Trust, a long term partnership that will bring together the Aylsham Cluster Schools, City College Norwich, The National Trust, The Sainsbury Centre, The Benjamin Foundation, the East of England Co-operative Society and Norfolk County Council Children's Services. The long term nature of these new relationships will provide continuity and stability for the Trust.

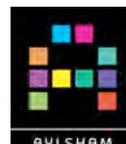
#### **Why should Buxton consider acquiring a Trust and changing to Foundation status?**

The current partnership between the Aylsham Cluster schools has been built up over a number of years, gradually becoming more and more complex and providing increased benefits for staff and pupils. It may be possible to continue this collaboration on an informal basis but it is very much dependant on the philosophy of individual heads / schools. The schools have begun to discuss a greater degree of involvement and can see much potential in the future. However, in order to reduce the risk of some schools 'opting out' in the future and to continue to build long term strategies, a means of formalisation is essential. For schools to increase their commitment, build further networks and commit head teacher / staff time to something that might not come to fruition as head teachers move on would seem very shortsighted. There is also a limit to the kind of partnerships / strategies that can be developed for the benefit of children across all schools without a formal agreement being in place.

The Trust will help to:

#### **1. Raise Aspirations, by**

- Raising standards in literacy, numeracy and ICT
- Embedding learning for all
- Increasing opportunities for all
- Extending outdoor learning
- Meeting the needs of all our students (especially SEN and the Gifted & Talented)
- Improving links with Higher Education



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## 2. Work with Families, to create

- Healthy and Safe Communities
- Community Cohesion

## 3. Ensure Professional development for all, to

- Increase leadership capacity
- Continue workforce development
- Equip us to face any new challenges

## 4. Develop Sustainable Schools, by

- Working co-operatively to prepare for the challenges and opportunities for schools and pupils in a rural context
- Ensuring effective procurement, commissioning and Value for Money

## How can I find out more information?

The School has produced two booklets that provide further information:

### 1. Booklet 1 - 'Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'

(This booklet is available on the school's website or on request to the school).

### 2. Booklet 2 - 'Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust - Questions & Answers'

(This booklet is available on the school's website or on request from the school).

The school's website address is – [www.buxtonschool.co.uk/](http://www.buxtonschool.co.uk/)

## Consultation Process

Please let us know what you think about the proposal. You can send back a completed 'Your Views' questionnaire which is included with this letter, or write to us at the school (the address is on the front page of this letter).

You can comment at any time until **Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2011**. The governors will review all the comments and will decide whether to go ahead (and whether to amend the proposals to reflect your suggestions and concerns). There will be another chance to comment on any formal proposals which might be made during the spring term before a final decision is made.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Jackson

Chair of Governors

