



## **Buxton Primary School**

### **THE AYLSHAM CLUSTER TRUST**



# **YOUR VIEWS!**

# **Public Consultation**

**on the proposal to change to  
Foundation School status  
and acquire a shared Charitable Trust**

# PUBLIC Consultation: - What is it all about?

The Governing Body of our school is proposing to change school category from Community School to Foundation School and to acquire a shared charitable trust - to be called the AYLSHAM CLUSTER TRUST. This will be a Co-operative Trust.

So far, the Governing Bodies of the following schools have decided to join: -



- Aldborough Primary School
- Aylsham High School
- Bure Valley Junior School
- John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School

The Governing Bodies of the two schools below, which, as existing Voluntary Controlled schools, already have foundations, have expressed an interest in becoming members of the proposed Trust.

- Aylsham St Michaels CE VC Nursery and Infant School
- Erpingham VC Primary School

The Governing Body of our school believes that the plans to develop the Trust represent the natural next step from the successful collaborative work that has already taken place. The Trust will enable the development of a more formal, legal and sustainable partnership between the schools and introduce an influential range of external partners.

**The Aylsham Cluster Trust** will establish long-term sustainable partnerships with a wide range of organisations.

Initially, the Trust will aim to bring together:

- The Aylsham Cluster Schools
- City College Norwich
- The Sainsbury Centre
- The National Trust
- Norfolk County Council Children's Services
- The Benjamin Foundation
- East of England Co-operative Society



## What will the Trust do?

The aim of the Trust is to raise achievement and expectation of learning; recognising that tomorrow's learners will live in an increasingly global economy facing the challenges posed by rapid environmental and economic change and to lay down a legacy that will ensure that children, families and the wider community are supported to maximise their potential in the rapidly changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This consultation is about Buxton Primary School becoming a Foundation Trust school. It will still be part of the Local Authority family of schools, but as a Foundation Trust school, it will be more self-governing, being responsible for its staff, admissions and land/buildings. This will help our school to raise standards in education and training and be more responsive to local needs.

## Foundation Trust status: - What does this mean for our school?



The Governing Body of our school will get new powers:

- It will become the employer of all staff
- It will become responsible for its own admissions, but it will continue to work with the LA to provide pupil places fairly, as now.

## What does this mean for the Trust?

- It will hold the assets of the school (land and buildings) 'on Trust'.
- It will appoint 2 new governors to strengthen the Governing Body of the school.

## How will the Trust help our school?

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

### 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

# Why a Trust?

The Aylsham Cluster schools have a tradition of embracing innovation and change. We have been working collaboratively for a number of years. Our vision statement is 'Together We Are Stronger, We Are Better'. Currently, several staff are employed to work across all schools in the cluster and a wide range of networks involving staff and children at all levels has been developed. There is also a formal strategy for the delivery of Extended Schools and the LA has invited the group to play a key role in developing a Phase 3 Children's Centre. The Aylsham Cluster has a very distinctive 'brand' that has achieved regional and national recognition.

Now we want to be the first shared Trust in Norfolk.

Our vision is for all children to learn in a rich and stimulating partnership that provides additional opportunities for us to work together creatively.

Together we will strive to provide an inspiring range of experiences to raise standards and aspirations and improve opportunities for all.

We will endeavour to respect the individuality of the range of schools working within a supportive culture and building on our relationship of trust.

We also aspire to adopt the cooperative values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and community solidarity and the ethical values of honesty, openness, trust, social responsibility and caring for others to underpin our collaboration.

This outward looking approach will help us raise standards in all areas of school life.

The Aylsham Cluster Trust will give us a stable platform on which to build long-term sustainable partnerships and continue to develop to meet the changing needs of our local communities.

**Thank you.**

**Mike Jackson (Chair of Governors)**

## Your Views: how you respond

The consultation period is from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

You can take part in the consultation by:

- returning your filled-in 'Your Views' questionnaire to the school
- writing to the Headteacher by post (marked "Trust Consultation")
- parents can have a discussion with one of our parent governors (Matthew Fruish)
- staff can have a discussion with our nominated staff governor (Mary Stevens)
- attending the appropriate consultation meeting

Location	Date and Time for Parents/Wider Community Consultation meeting	Date and Time for Staff Consultation meeting
Buxton Primary School	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 from 2pm til 3pm	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 from 3.15pm til 4pm

If you need any more detailed information, two booklets are available –

Booklet One - ‘Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust’.

Booklet Two – ‘Changing Status / Questions and Answers’

These are available on our website (<http://www.buxtonschool.co.uk/>) or from the school directly on request:

These will answer any further questions you may have.

## Next Steps

The consultation period ends on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011. A report of the consultation will be on our website soon after. The Governing Body will then meet to decide whether: -

- a) to go ahead with the proposal to become a foundation school and acquire charitable status.
- b) whether to amend the proposal, taking into account comments received during the consultation period, and then consult you again, or
- c) to remain a community school.

If the Governing Body decides on option a) or b), formal proposals will be made, and you will be asked for your views again.

### **\*How well did we do?**

We have tried to meet the following criteria in this consultation; -

- Consult widely
- Make all aspects of the proposals clear
- Ensure that the documents are concise and accessible
- Give feedback on responses and show how the consultation influenced the outcome.

As part of your response, please feel free to comment on how well we have met these criteria, and to suggest ways of further improving the consultation process.

