

# 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 2011

## CONSULTATION ON AYLSHAM CLUSTER TRUST

### - should Buxton School be part of this Trust, and if so why?

Please find attached information relating to the proposed change of Buxton School to a Foundation School and part of the Aylsham Cluster Trust.

I appreciate the whole topic of Trusts and the attached documentation may be confusing to some, and that understanding the whole proposed change is difficult - but at the heart of everything we do is always the desire to improve our school for the good of our children. **This is the fundamental reason for undertaking this exploration of Trusts.** I believe changing our status to Foundation and becoming part of the Aylsham Cluster Co-operative Trust is the way to achieve this. Our school has been through a 'rocky' time and is now in a period of stability and improvement - this is wonderful for us all, as we work together to build a School which we and our community can be proud of. We will not compromise on our schools uniqueness or specific aims - we value our individuality greatly. Buxton school has become such a major part of my life - I want it to succeed and be highly regarded and will explore all opportunities that will enable this.

For many years now the schools in and around Aylsham have worked collaboratively for the best interests of each and every child and family. This support and shared expertise has had a significant impact on children's achievement and enjoyment of school. Their talents have been developed and their weaknesses supported. The examples below illustrate how this collaboration has benefited our children at Buxton School:

- *cluster maths teacher to support pupils in year 6 (SATs booster sessions)*
- *Additional Science Teacher to help us raise standards in Science last year for our year 6 pupils.*
- *Cluster inter-school sporting events for all key stages (we took part in tennis, dancing, football and tri golf last year).*
- *Staff networks to share expertise; Special needs teachers, Reception teachers, year 5/6 teachers as well as subject leader meetings in Literacy and Numeracy.*
- *Headteacher network in place - cluster Heads work very closely together sharing a range of strategies and documentation*



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- *Pupil assessment network - ensuring quality assessment of pupils progress in all schools.*
- *Family Learning Co-ordinators to support/organise our Family Learning events which ensures all families have the opportunity to become involved in school*
- *Cluster training school at the High School offering quality training for ALL support staff - enables all staff to support children in our school more specifically and effectively.*

This 'working together' ethos within the cluster is totally dependent on current staff valuing this shared approach, and committing delegated funding to cluster initiatives. For the benefits outlined above to continue, and to be further developed and extended, our collaboration needs to be more formalized - and not so dependent on individual good will and preference. Formalising our work together sustains it, and ensures future generations of children receive an education which meets the Every Child Matters Agenda - something we would struggle to do alone. I am excited by the prospects this can offer the future of our school and our children.

In the current financial climate, there is the potential for school budgets to be significantly reduced. Place this alongside the reduction in service provision for schools from the Local Authority and we are facing a situation where schools are going to have to seek many services themselves. Purchasing these services as a group of schools will be more cost effective and enable service delivery to become more localized and so accessible. Formal collaboration will also enable us to rethink some of our school staff roles - shared site, special needs or finance staff will free up headteachers to do what they do best - lead the teaching and learning within their school. This will inevitably improve outcomes for children across the curriculum and ensure quality and equality of provision for all children across the cluster.

At Buxton, we see staff expertise as our greatest resource. Each class has a full time teacher and teaching assistant - some have more than this. We believe that for children to achieve and experience success they need support from an adult; an adult who can teach new concepts, model good practice, is well trained, scaffolds pupil's learning, enables constructive home/school links and knows your child so well that when something goes wrong they are quick to act and resolve the problem or offer support. Maintaining this staffing structure is going to be extremely difficult when budgets are cut. However, if we are purchasing common school resources as a group of schools - the deals will be better and free up money to be spent on staffing or whatever else we choose.



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So, finally, I ask you to please read the consultation - come and see me or the nominated Governors if you have a query or question, or come along to the open coffee session on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Even though on a day to day basis the school will appear and function in the same way as it does now - the proposed change will ensure better outcomes for children, best value for public fund expenditure, sustainable quality education and a professional body of staff who are better able to support you and your child.

Kind Regards

Deborah Leahy

