**Proposed – Joining West End School’s Trust (WEST)**

**Public Consultation: Booklet 1**

**Changing from Community School to Foundation School Category and joining the West End Schools’ Trust**

The Governing Body of Moorside Community Primary School are proposing to change from a community school to a foundation school and at the same time join the West End Schools’ Trust.

The West End Schools’ Trust currently consists of the following schools:

* Bridgewater School
* Broadwood Primary School
* Canning Street Primary School
* Hawthorn Primary
* St. John’s Primary School
* Wingrove Primary School

And St. Paul’s C of E Primary School, which is a voluntary –aided school working as a full partner in the Trust.

**What we would like you to do:**

We would very much like to know what you think about our plans, so we invite you to take part in our consultation. You can do this by:

1. Reading this Booklet 1.
2. Completing the response form and returning it to Moorside Community Primary School by noon on 19th June 2018 at the latest
3. Writing to the school with your comments: Addressed to L Hall, Head Teacher, Moorside community Primary School, Beaconsfield Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5AW.
4. Making your comments known to the school via email. Email: admin@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk or linda.hall@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk

**Contents of this booklet:**

1. Executive summary
2. Why are we proposing this change
3. Vision and Values
4. What will the Trust do?
5. How will the Trust work?
6. What does Foundation status mean?
7. What differences does Trust and Foundation Category mean for stakeholders?
8. Consultation process

**1. Executive Summary**

1. The Governing Body of Moorside Community Primary School are proposing to change their category from community school to foundation school and at the same time join the West End Schools’ Trust (WEST).
2. The proposed date of implementation is **1st November 2018.**
3. The partnership of schools supported by the Trust will work together to improve the standards, outcomes, opportunities and services for children, young people and their families within the WEST community of Newcastle. Head Teachers and governors believe strongly that by working together we can achieve significantly more than they can achieve working alone.
4. As a member of an established Trust we would continue to be members of the Newcastle Local Authority family of schools and the change of category will allow us to be additionally supported by a charitable trust.
5. Moorside Governing Body will become the employer of all staff, although existing pay and condition arrangements will be unchanged under the TUPE like arrangements for transfer of staff. Foundation schools are required to abide by national teacher’s pay and conditions.
6. The Governing Body will also become responsible for the admissions policy and criteria within the requirements of the National Schools Admissions Code. The LA will continue to administer the application process.
7. The Trust will hold the land and capital assets in Trust for the schools although the Governing Body will retain day-to-day responsibility for managing these assets in the same way that they do now.
8. You will have the opportunity to comment on these proposals during the consultation period that runs from **noon Tuesday 22nd May 2018 to noon on Tuesday 19th June 2018.** Copies of the consultation document will be available on our school website although each family will be sent a hard copy.
9. The Governing Body will consider the outcome of the consultation and then decide on whether to publish Statutory Proposals on changing category and acquiring a charitable trust or to remain a community school.

**2. Why are we proposing this change?**

We are considering this change because:

* The nature of education in England is changing rapidly. Much of this change is related to how schools are governed and the changing role of the Local Authority which has a significantly reduced influence in many areas of education. The introduction of new types of school into the system reduces the ability of the Local Authority to manage the provision of places across the system. Working closely with the schools already in the Trust, the Governors and Head Teacher believe that there is real advantage in the schools developing a closer and stronger collaborative relationship.

* Everything that is already good about our school will be continued. Our Governing Body and school leaders will still have the same responsibilities for the education of children and young people as they do now. We believe that by joining a Trust we can further enhance the quality of education and care that the children and young people now receive. We have set out in this consultation document some of the different ways in which we believe we can achieve this together.

**3. Vision and Values**

The specific focus of the Trust will be to build a shared learning community in which children, young people, staff, parents and other partners discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that endures through their lives*.*

Through the Trust, there is a strong collaborative working between the schools as well as with identified partners to further improve standards and enhance opportunities for children, parents, staff and the wider community. They encourage all members of the community to get involved.

**4. What will the Trust do?**

The focus of the Trust’s work will be our shared interest in maximising the achievements of all of the children and young people through building and embedding the capacity for enhanced provision and widening access for the community.

This will be done through developing effective partnerships and working together on shared priorities.

Working with the Trust will allow a more efficient use of resources through larger economies of scale for procurement and services and also, because of its charitable status, provide opportunities for bidding for resources that are currently not available to community schools.

**5. How will the Trust work?**

The West End Schools’ Trust is a charitable, not for profit organisation, meeting the legal requirements of the Department for Education (DfE). The land and assets of each school is held in trust for the community.

The Trust is established and regulated by the Charities Commission and is registered as a company limited by guarantee with Companies House.

Trustees (or Directors) of the Trust will be drawn from the school governors, Head Teachers and other partners and will be responsible for managing the Trust. The Trust will meet a minimum of 3 times a year (co-ordinated with existing school governance arrangements as required).

Trustees will not be able to derive an income from the Trust. Any income generated by the Trust is only used to support its charitable aims. The Trust does not seek to alter the individual characteristics of partner schools.

Members of the Trust will be drawn from the school governors, leaders, partners and other organisations that agree to work with the schools to further the aims of the Trust.

**6. What does Foundation status mean?**

To enable us to join the Trust, community schools (such as Moorside Community Primary School) are required to change their category and become a Foundation School. In acquiring foundation status the Governing Body and not the Trust will take on new responsibilities. These will include taking on the role of employer of staff and being responsible for admissions of learners to each school. Although the Trust will hold the land and assets in trust for each school, each governing body will retain day to day responsibility for managing these as they do currently.

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained School) (England) Regulations 2007 provide for all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities to transfer existing staff from the LA to the Governing Body.

Existing and new teaching staff will continue to work under the terms of the School Teachers’ Pay and conditions Document (STPCD).

Moorside will continue to teach the National Curriculum and be inspected by Ofsted as an individual school.

Although the Governing Body reserve the right to review admission arrangements, we will work in collaboration with the LA to ensure strict adherence to the National Schools Admissions Code.

**7. What differences does Trust and Foundation Category mean for stakeholders?**

**Admissions:**

As part of the LA family of maintained schools, our school will continue to operate a fair admissions policy (as above) and we will be responsible for their admissions policy and process.

**Composition of Governing Bodies**

The change to Foundation status will mean a change of instrument of governance and a reconstitution of the Governing Body. The changes should however be minimal. The Trust will appoint a minimum number of governors i.e. two. It is likely that these will be people already on our Governing Body and they will change category to Foundation Governors. Guidance and support for the reconstitution process is available from Newcastle Governor Services via the Clerk to the Governing Body. The Clerk for Moorside is Nicholas Saunders.

**Staff Terms and Conditions**

Employees will be employed by our school’s Governing Body instead of the LA. Moorside will continue to recognise the same unions and staff associations. Our staff will still be represented on all governing bodies, elected by their colleagues.

In addition to the above the Governing Body will seek assurances from the LA with regard to Pension Arrangements, Costs of Early Retirement and Redundancies and related matters.

**8. Consultation process**

We would very much like to know what you think about our plans, so we invite you to take part in our consultation. You can do this by:

1. Completing the response form and returning it to your school anytime between **noon on 22nd May 2018 and noon on 19th June 2018.**
2. Email or write to the school between noon **on 22nd May 2018 and noon on 19th June 2018.**

Pupils will be consulted in our school through our school council and in our assemblies.

After the consultation is finished all the comments both written and verbal will be collated by the school and a report prepared for the Governing Body. The report will be published on our website and will be available for inspection by the public on request. The Governing Body of Moorside Community Primary School will then meet to review the report before reaching a decision about whether or not to proceed.

The Governing Body may decide to:

* Issue a Statutory Notice to change from Community to Foundation status and to join the Trust or
* Modify the proposal in light of the suggestions made through the consultation process and if the changes are significant, consult again on the changes; or
* Remain as a Community school

If the Governing Body decides to issue a Statutory Notice there will be another chance to comment on the formal proposals before any final decision is made.

The proposed implementation date for the Trust is **1st November 2018**.