Moorside Community Primary School

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1st August 2018,

Dear Parents, Pupils, Staff and Stakeholders,

**Prescribed Alteration to School Status**

Following an extraordinary Governing Body meeting held on Friday 27 July, there was a unanimous vote for Moorside Community Primary School to change their school category from a community to a foundation school and acquire Trust status as part of the West End Schools Trust (WEST).

WEST Trust is an established Foundation, the current members of the trust are:

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

St. Paul’s C of E Primary School, a voluntary-aided school, works as a full partner in the trust.

The planned date of change is the 1st November 2018\* (or as soon as possible thereafter) and the intention is that all of the necessary discussions / consultations (with pupils, parents, staff, schools, unions, other stakeholders etc.) will take place as appropriate by that date.

This decision is based on the school having undertaken an informal and formal consultation including a Statutory Notice dated the 29th June 2018. During the decision making process the Governors circulated letters and questionnaires to parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders to allow them to make an informed decision.

In making the decision, governors believed that the change of category and the acquisition of Trust Status in partnership with the WEST schools would:

* Provide an increased range of experiences for both pupils and staff
* Offer enhanced provision for very able pupils (with increased learning challenge) and less able pupils (with increased learning support)
* Deepen collaboration on a range of mutually beneficially developments
* Enhance provision for children and young people through the involvement of partners from the business, higher education, health and arts sectors
* Develop shared facilities and support services, thus benefitting from economies of scale and the ability to tailor services to meet our priorities.

Governors also approved the following resolutions:

* Staff terms and conditions will continue to remain the same and will reflect those of the local authority, including membership of the local authority pension scheme.
* There will be the minimum impact upon relevant staff transferring employment on 1st November 2018\* (or as soon as possible thereafter).
* The governing body will sign an indemnity agreement between the governors and the local authority.
* They will change their Instrument of Government.

The governors believe that Moorside will benefit by this new partnership and will be supported by the Trust who will work together to improve the standards, outcomes, opportunities and services for children, young people and their families within the WEST community of Newcastle. The Governors along with the Head Teacher believe strongly that by working together they can achieve significantly more than they can achieve working alone. As a member of an established Trust, Moorside would continue to be part of the Newcastle Local Authority family of schools and the change of category will in addition allow them to be supported by a charitable trust.

Moorside Governing Body will become the employer of all staff, although existing pay and conditions arrangements will be unchanged under the TUPE like arrangements for transfer of staff. Foundation schools are required to abide by national teachers’ pay and conditions. The Governing Body have agreed to approve certain resolutions with regard to staff/contracts and further details will be available in September.

The Governing Body will also become responsible for the admissions policy and will use criteria within the requirements of the National Schools Admissions Code. The local authority will continue to administer the application process.

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.

The Governing Body and Head Teacher are excited about these proposals and feel that this change will improve outcomes for pupils by creating the capacity to build on the school’s current strengths.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has been involved in this process, especially those parents and pupils that have taken the time to respond to our consultation and WEST Trust who have welcomed us into their established Trust. We look forward to this new chapter at Moorside.

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs L Hall Mr B Clark

Head Teacher Acting Vice Chair

Moorside Community Primary School Moorside Community Primary School Governing Body

NB \*Proposed implementation is 1st November 2018, if date is changed all parties will be informed