

Three Valleys Learning Partnership

Trust School Proposal - Statutory Proposals

1 Introductory Information

a) School Details

This is a proposal to extend a partnership of schools by expanding the Three Valleys Learning Partnership. The schools in the partnership will be Bishops Tawton Primary School, Bratton Fleming Community Primary School, Pilton Infants' School, Sticklepath Community School, Yeo Valley Primary School and Forches Cross Community Primary School.

The school in the partnership that proposes a change of category is: Forches Cross Community Primary School, Forches Avenue, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8EF. The Governing Body on Forches Cross Community Primary School intends to make prescribed alterations to change Forches Cross Community Primary School's category from Community to Foundation.

b) Dates

The proposed implementation date is 11 April 2016.

c) Objections or comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, **by noon on 26 February 2016**, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by writing to Forches Cross Community Primary School (address above).

d) Consultation

A great deal of consultation is taking place with regard to these proposals.

- i) Our consultation documents were issued on 5 January 2016 to all consultees listed in Appendix A of the Consultation Booklet 1 and published on the Forches Cross Community Primary School website. Documents were also on the websites of the Three Valleys Learning Partnership schools. Additional copies of the consultation documents were available at Forches Cross Community Primary School for collection.
- ii) The results of this extensive consultation exercise will be summarised in a report for Forches Cross Community Primary School's Governing Body.
- iii) In total approximately 170 consultation documents were distributed to parents, staff, students, governors and all other stakeholders required by statute.
- iv) There are separate staff, parent and community meetings being held to discuss the proposed alterations and a meeting has also been arranged with the unions.
- v) Simultaneously with the public consultation, pupils at Forches Cross Community Primary School are being consulted through a school council event.

- vi) All statutory requirements about consulting on these proposals are being met and the Governing Body of Forches Cross Community Primary School will be meeting to consider the consultation responses and the issues raised by them on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

e) Changes made in response to consultation responses

Following careful consideration of the responses to the consultation, the Governing Body of Forches Cross Community Primary School will decide whether any alterations to the proposals are necessary.

f) Alteration Description

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that:

The Governing Body of **Forches Cross Community Primary School** intends to make a prescribed alteration to Forches Cross Community Primary School which is a Community School located at Forches Avenue, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8EF

The proposed alteration is to change Forches Cross Community Primary School's category from Community to Foundation and, together with one or more of the proposed partners, to join an existing foundation established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

2. Changing Category

a) The Governing Body of Forches Cross Community Primary School believes that joining a trust will provide opportunities to improve learning in our community.

b) Forches Cross Community Primary School will have a foundation established otherwise than under the SSFA 1998.

c) The school is not proposing a change of category to foundation from a voluntary aided school so no consent is required.

d) The Trust already acts as a foundation for Bishops Tawton Primary School, Bratton Fleming Community Primary School, Pilton Infants' School, Sticklepath Community School and Yeo Valley Primary School.

3. Acquiring a Trust

a) The name of the trust that Governors intend to join from 11 April 2016 is the "Three Valleys Learning Partnership".

b) The "Three Valleys Learning Partnership" partner organisations work in partnership and collaboration with the schools. The Trust body formalises that working relationship and ensures that relationships survive changes of personnel for the benefit of all schools in the wider area joining the same Trust.

Forches Cross Community Primary School is proposing to join the Three Valleys Learning Partnership that:

- Shares common aims, values and principles across our schools whilst retaining the unique identities of individual schools

- Ensures teaching, learning and development are central to all that we do by creating an environment of mutual support, raising aspirations to aid in delivering consistently high standards of education and care
- Actively engages parents and the wider community together with our schools to shape the future of education within our local area whilst remaining part of the Devon LA family of schools
- Consolidates and improves the relationships our schools already have to develop further trust, capacity and expertise to ensure all children access excellent provision and opportunities
- Promotes resilience, ambition and aspiration amongst our community
- Cultivates pride in our diverse local environment, whilst widening children's experience and horizons for their futures both in Barnstaple and the wider world
- Creates opportunities for a sustainable model of co-operation and collaboration so that the budgets and resources available are used to best effect to sustain further school improvement and enhance outcomes for all our children

c) The proposed members of the Trust are:

- Bishops Tawton Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Bratton Fleming Community Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Pilton Infants' School (2 Trustees)
- Sticklepath Community School (2 Trustees)
- Yeo Valley Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Forches Cross Community Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Holywell C of E (VC) Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School (2 Trustees)
- Petroc (1 Trustee)
- The Co-operative Movement, initially represented by the Co-operative College (1 Trustee)

(In the case of the two trustees each school appoints to the Trust Board, these are the Headteacher and Chair of Governors – or the Chair's nominee.)

The Trust performs in the most effective and democratic manner and operates in accordance with the co-operative values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The co-operative model provides a level of community engagement and participation that is essential if the adoption of trust school status is going to achieve the schools' vision for education in the community; it will assist in the promotion of community cohesion.

Accordingly, membership of the Trust is open to anyone approved by the Trustees, who is willing to be bound by the provisions of the Trust's constitution and who is eligible for membership of any one of the following five membership constituencies:

- pupils attending the School*
- parents and carers of those attending the School*
- staff working at the School*
- members of the local School* community
- local community organisations as appropriate to the School.*

(*‘The School’ is taken to refer to any school for whom the Three Valleys Learning Partnership will act as its legal foundation.)

The Trust will have a Stakeholder Forum, composed of members, which will be able to appoint Trustees. The Stakeholder Forum will discuss issues affecting the Trust, make recommendations to the Trustees, and appoint Trustees. As the Trust develops, it may welcome other schools joining the Trust.

The first members of the Stakeholder Forum will be appointed by the Trustees. At a Trust's AGM, the Trustee-appointed members of the Stakeholder Forum step down, and are replaced with members elected by the Trust's members.

The involvement of each of the partners in this project in no way prejudices their relationships with other education providers.

d) The Trust will appoint a minority of governors (namely two) to the Governing Body of Forches Cross Community Primary School as defined in Appendix 2.

e) Each partner will appoint trustees as shown in 3c (above). The Stakeholder Forum will appoint 2 Trustees.

f) The proposed constitution of Forches Cross Community Primary School's Governing Body is shown at the end of Appendix 2.

g) The Trust's charitable objectives are to advance the education of the pupils in the Three Valleys Learning Partnership, with a remit to advance the education of other members of the community, and otherwise to benefit the community; it being acknowledged that in carrying out the objects the Trust must (where applicable) have regard to its obligation to promote community cohesion under the Education Acts.

h) The Trust already acts as a Foundation for Bishops Tawton Primary School, Bratton Fleming Community Primary School, Pilton Infants' School, Sticklepath Community School and Yeo Valley Primary School.

i) The Trust meets the requirements on Trusts as detailed in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England) Regulations 2007.

j) The partnership plays a key part in the development of education in our local area. The ethos of the participating schools aligns very well with the co-operative values and principles of the Co-operative Movement. Co-operative principles will underpin the work of the partnership and we believe will contribute significantly to strengthening our schools – and our links with the local communities.

The partnership's particular priorities are to:

- ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is central to all that we do for the benefit of all our children e.g. by using teacher expertise across the Partnership
- create an environment of mutual support that builds capacity to enable us to achieve more co-operatively than we could as individual schools e.g. teachers across the Partnership coaching and mentoring each other
- develop a formalised and sustainable framework for collaboration across our schools so that we are able to widen the experiences provided by individual schools using the diverse opportunities across the partnership e.g. through shared training
- work with our partners, such as Petroc, to help break down barriers to learning and support life-long learning e.g. through visits to and projects organised with Petroc

- develop the membership of our co-operative trust over time to increase the active engagement of parents and the wider community in learning

k) The schools within the Trust, including Forches Cross, already work with other schools. This work will continue so that the entire Trust area, and not just the schools within the Three Valleys Learning Partnership, offer community cohesion and development for our local communities and contribute to the diversity of educational provision in the area.

l) After considering responses to these proposals, the Governing Body of Forches Cross Community Primary School will decide whether it wishes to join the Trust.

Dated 13 January 2016

Signed:

Paula Stein

Paula Stein
Chair of Governors
Forches Cross Community Primary School

Appendix 1 – Public Consultation 2016 Booklet 1 available on Forches Cross' website: www.forchescross.org or the websites of the schools in the Three Valleys Learning Partnership (listed in section 3c of this document). Copies are also available at Forches Cross' school office.

Appendix 2 - Proposed Governing Body Composition:

Governor type	Forches Cross Community Primary School	
	Current	Proposed
Local Authority	1	1
Parent	2	2
Staff (inc HT)	2	2
Co-opted	7	5
Trust/Foundation	0	2
Total	12	12