



28 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Following a great deal of consideration of the options available to us the Governing Body of Delph Primary School, are considering setting up a formal partnership with Diggle Primary School, and Knowsley Junior School. In order to do this we would be changing from being a community school to a foundation school. The partnership would be called Dovestone Learning Partnership and be established as a Co-operative Trust.

In addition the following schools would also be associate partners:

Saddleworth School

Christchurch Denshaw CE (C) Primary School

St Agnes CE (VA) Primary School

St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School; and

St Thomas' Leesfield CE (VA) Primary School.

Christchurch Denshaw CE (C) Primary School, St Agnes CE (VA) Primary School, St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School and St Thomas' Leesfield CE (VA) Primary School are already foundation schools with the Manchester Diocese.

The governors of Saddleworth School have agreed that converting at this time would not be feasible given the current situation with the proposed school build but have made it clear that they wish for the school to become part of the foundation as soon as it has been rebuilt.

For the proposed partner schools there is no requirement for formal consultation but we are keen for everyone involved to have the same information so we will be holding information sessions at the schools too.

Why we are considering this?

All the schools have considered what is happening both nationally and locally and we are keen to protect the working relationships we have worked hard to establish. It is with this in mind that we are looking at how we can ensure its long-term sustainability. We believe that we would have a greater capacity to do so by working more formally in collaboration with a range of strong partners.

Our vision for the partnership is of *'a strong family of inspiring schools that serve our local community and contribute fully to the provision of education in the area and collaborate with other partners to achieve common goals. Leading the way in education for Oldham children and young people enabling them to enjoy learning and achieve well as individuals'*.

'Stronger Together For Our Pupils'

What we would like you to do

We see many benefits for the partnership which we would like to discuss with you as we begin formal consultation on our proposals.

The three schools named above will enter into the statutory consultation process from noon on Friday 28th April 2017 to noon on Wednesday 21st June 2017. It is currently proposed that these legal changes will take place on 1st September 2017.

Attached is an information leaflet that sets out briefly the implications of the proposed change of category and the creation of a local mutual co-operative school trust, as well as the reasons why each Governing Body and Headteacher are proposing it. It also seeks to answer some of the more common questions. The leaflet also includes dates, times and venues of consultation meetings including one for parents/carers. The meeting at Delph Primary School will be held on **4th May 2017 at 5.00pm**. An open meeting is also being held on the same date at 6.00 pm if you are not able to make the 5.00 pm meeting

A much more comprehensive and in-depth consultation document known as 'Booklet One' can be obtained from our school website – or in paper copy from the school office. Similarly available is a detailed Questions and Answers document 'Booklet Two'.

A key part of the initial consultation process involves gathering views and feedback. Included with this letter is a consultation questionnaire. You can complete this online via our school website or complete the questionnaire and return it to school.

We consider your views to be very important and hope that you are able to help us to determine the best way forward for our school.

This is an exciting time for all the schools involved and we hope that you will be able to come along, listen to the proposals and ask any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Leigh
Headteacher
Delph Primary School

Mr M Hopkins
Chair of Governors
Delph Primary School

Mrs S Newton
Headteacher
Diggle Primary School

Mr M Rea
Chair of Governors
Diggle Primary School

Mrs V Payne
Headteacher
Knowsley Junior School

Mrs C Pinnington
Vice Chair of Governors
Knowsley Junior School