



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Joy Lane Primary, Nursery School and Oysters SRP (ASD)
Joy Lane,
Whitstable,
Kent. CT5 4LT
www.office@joylane.kent.sch.uk

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)
Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines
Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Monday 25th April 2016

To our families; our staff; members of our local community and other interested parties

The Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust

The Governing Body of Joy Lane Primary, Nursery School and Oysters SRP (ASD) are considering becoming a foundation school and formalising existing relationships with local schools to form a co-operative Education Trust with 1st July 2016 as the proposed implementation date.

The rationale for this proposal is as follows.

- 1 We want to continue to raise expectations and standards in the school and improve the future prospects for all of our learners.
- 2 To do this - with the many changes taking place in education - we need to build strong partnerships and make our school improvement planning more sustainable.
- 3 We believe that to meet the needs of our community, we can achieve more through formal education partnerships, than we will be able to by working alone.
- 4 The proposed Education Trust would
 - a). establish a formal partnership and allow us to work with other co-operative schools
 - b). underpin the values of the school, which are in line with universal co-operative values; and
 - c). help us to deliver our school's vision and aims.
- 5 The rationale for acquiring the Trust, the contribution it will make, and the direction it will provide to the schools can be summarised as follows:

The Trust will build on the existing relationship between local schools and support the schools in seeking to:

- Improve the quality of learning and teaching
 - Improve the wellbeing and behaviour of our young people
 - Enhance capacity by sharing resources and expertise
 - Improve value for money in a time of real terms reduction in funding
 - Support and develop current and future leaders
- 6 Trust schools are part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable trust which would be represented on our governing body. It is important to be aware that the governing body will continue to run the school, handle the school budget and be responsible for the performance of the school. The Trust will provide additional resources and expertise.
 - 7 There is no intention of changing staffing arrangements as part of these proposals.



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A summary of the proposals and the dates and times of consultation meetings can be found in the Proposal Summary that accompanies this letter. We hope you will join in the discussion and come to one of the meetings if you are able to. **Responses can also be made by email to:** coastal@csnetwork.coop

Further details of the proposals are provided in our **Proposal information pack** which can be obtained from the school or downloaded from the website: www.joylane.kent.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Debra Hines

Executive Headteacher

Gerry Skinner

Chair of Governors



The Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust

(A mutual schools co-operative education trust)

Consultation: Summary information

The Reason for the Consultation:

The Governing Body for each of the following schools

Briary Primary School Greenhill Road, Herne Bay CT6 7RS Tel: 01227 373095

Joy Lane Primary, Nursery School and Oysters SRP (ASD)

Joy Lane, Whitstable CT5 4LT Tel: 01227 261430

Swalecliffe Primary School Bridgefield Road, Swalecliffe CT5 2PH Tel: 01227 272101

Whitstable Junior School Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DB Tel: 01227 272385

are proposing to change their legal school category from community to foundation and, at the same time, acquire charitable status as a shared co-operative Trust; to be known as The Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust.

This publication provides information about our Proposal including how we are planning to develop and improve our schools - and why we think that setting up a co-operative education Trust will help us to achieve this.

Copies of this information are available at our schools as well as electronically from our websites.

What we would like you to do

We would like to know what you think of our proposals so we invite you to take part in our public consultation. You can do this by:

- Reading this information and asking for further information if you need any.
- Attending one of the consultation meetings, details of which are shown below.

You can respond to the consultation:-

By completing the Consultation response forms, which are available from our schools.

By sending comments or requests for further information in writing to: "Consultation" at the school address, shown above.

By sending comments or requests for further information by email to: coastal@csnetwork.coop

- The Governing Body and the leadership team of our schools have been considering how best to plan for the long term future, in the light of changes happening in the public education service.
- We want to ensure that we continue improving the service we offer to our children and young people and we want to become part of a regional and national network of schools and partners that can help us to deliver that ambition.
- To take this plan forward, we are proposing to change the school category from community to foundation and at the same time to establish together a co-operative education trust, to be called The Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust.
- The proposed date of implementation (i.e. the date on which any legal change of category would take place and the Trust would be created on) is 1st July 2016.
- The process of change will not result in noticeable day to day differences for our school, but we believe that setting up this partnership will allow us to formalise arrangements with a group of like-minded education providers and learn from the shared expertise and experience they offer.
- Further information is provided below – we would be pleased to hear what your thoughts are (and invite you to become a member of the Trust so that you can contribute to its work if we do go ahead).
- You are invited to comment on these proposals at any time from now until the end of the statutory consultation period, which runs from **28th April to 27th May 2016**.

The background

All the Herne Bay and Whitstable Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools are currently part of an informal collaborative group of schools called the Coastal Alliance.

- We want to formalise this arrangement to further improve our schools by forming a trust and by becoming Co-operative Trust schools together with other partner schools. All schools in the Alliance are able to take up one of these two options. Church schools/academies can only be Co-operative Trust partners. We are proposing that our four founding schools initially change category to become Foundation Trust schools in order to establish the Trust.
- Doing so at this point will allow us to develop our work together for the next few years, while the recently announced new government policies in education are further clarified, rather than rushing into a major upheaval at this point in time.
- The Foundation Trust would secure the working partnership and be a ready-made model if the proposal for all schools to become academies by 2022 is in fact the situation we face in the future. However, we do not feel that pursuing academy status is right for our schools at this point in time.
- One of the main attractions of the co-operative trust model is that it will enable our schools to continue to work in the same way as we currently work and retain our individual characters. We value the diversity and range of school types and are not trying to make our schools the same, but rather to ensure what is special now, is preserved in the future.
- No member school has to become an academy to join the Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust if they are not one already. No school will become part of a “chain” of schools. There is no leader or chief executive of the trust. Headteachers and governors will remain in charge of their own schools accountable to their young people, parents and the local community, with the Trust collectively supporting all of our children in having the best possible education through partnership working.
- The trust will be a not for profit organisation, in which members will be mutually responsible but not liable for each other. The trust will be a legal entity, recognised as such by KCC and the national government.

Shared Vision

Our vision is to achieve substantial and sustained improvement of standards across a dynamic learning community where all the young people of Herne Bay and Whitstable, have their needs met.

- We want to ensure that local schools remain accountable to local people; this will be the case for all schools in the trust. Irrespective of which school our young people attend, we see them as our shared responsibility.
- The Coastal Alliance is already a proven and coherent self-improving schools' system. However, we want to make this even more effective and even stronger by forging an even closer partnership with our neighbouring schools, as a Co-operative Trust.
- Across all our schools, we will focus on:
 - Improving the quality of learning and teaching
 - Improving the wellbeing and behaviour of our young people
 - Enhancing capacity by sharing resources and expertise
 - Improving value for money in a time of real terms reduction in funding
 - Supporting and developing current and future leaders
- These strategic goals will be addressed through our Trust Action Plan which will be based on regular audits of strengths and areas for development across the schools.
- We believe that the values of a co-operative schools' trust match our existing values but also enables us to be part of a wider national network of schools with complimentary values. This ensures we are outward looking, in our drive to make all our local schools the very best they can be for the young people of Whitstable and Herne Bay.

We are holding a series of discussion meetings to provide further information.

On Monday 16th May:

3:15pm at Joy Lane Primary School **for Joy Lane Staff**

On Tuesday 17th May:

9:15am at Joy Lane Primary School **for Joy Lane parents and carers**

1:15pm at Swalecliffe Community Primary School **for All Trade Union Representatives**

2:15pm at Swalecliffe Community Primary School **for Swalecliffe Parents and Carers**

3:15pm at Swalecliffe Community Primary School **for Swalecliffe staff**

5:30pm at Swalecliffe Community Primary School **for The General Public (including any Parents and Carers unable to attend their own school meeting)**

On Wednesday 18th May

9:15am at Briary Primary School **for Briary Parents and Carers**

2:45pm at Whitstable Junior School **for Whitstable Junior Parents and Carers**

3:30pm at Whitstable Junior School **for Whitstable Junior Staff**

On Thursday 19th May

3:15pm at Briary Primary School **for Briary Staff**

Thank you for your interest.