

## CONSULTATION

We would like to know what you think about the proposals contained in this booklet.

You can take part in the consultation by

- a) Attending one or more of the consultation meetings below;
- b) Completing a Questionnaire and returning it to School. It is also available electronically on the School's website. Responses can also be made online as well as in hard copy.

The full consultation meetings programme is as follows:

Audience	Date	Time	Venue
Staff	Wednesday March 18th 2015	3.15pm	Main Hall
Public	Wednesday March 18th 2015	4.30pm	Main Hall
Parents and Carers	Wednesday March 18th 2015	5.30pm	Main Hall

Learners will be consulted via Student Voice / Student Council, assemblies and a range of other internal school mechanisms.

You can comment on the proposals at any time from noon on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to noon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

After the statutory consultation is closed, all comments oral and written will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Body. This report will be made available on the School website. It will be available for inspection by stakeholders on request. The Governing Body will then hold a meeting to review the report and all the comments made before reaching an informed decision.

The Governing Body may decide to:

- Adopt the proposals;
- Modify the proposals in the light of suggestions made during the consultation and if the changes are significant, consult again on the changes;
- Pause the process;
- Decide not to proceed and to remain as a Foundation school without a foundation.

The proposed implementation date for joining the Trust is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

## CONTACT

If you have any queries about anything you have read here or require copies of any of the consultation documents, please contact:

*Derek Hickman, Clerk to Governors*

*Stafford Sports College, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ*

*Telephone: 01785 258383*

*E-mail: [governors@staffordsportscollege.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:governors@staffordsportscollege.staffs.sch.uk)*

Copies of all documents can also be accessed on the School website [www.staffordsportscollege.com](http://www.staffordsportscollege.com) or in hard copy upon request to the Clerk above.



**Stafford**  
Sports College

and

# The Stafford Community Learning Trust

*(a mutual schools co-operative membership trust)*

## Changing to a Foundation Trust School Category and acquiring a Charitable Trust

*This leaflet provides an overall summary of the full consultation Booklet One, 'Changing to Foundation Trust Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'. This is available from the school office and our website. Also available is Booklet Two, 'Questions and Answers'.*

### OUR PROPOSAL

For some time our SLT and the Governing Body have been looking at the various options available to us in terms of the legal status of the school including both Academy and Foundation Trust. After a great deal of thought and discussion, we decided further to explore the co-operative foundation trust model. The Governing Body at its meeting on Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> decided to take this a stage further by agreeing to consult on proposals to become a Co-operative Trust School.

In many ways this will complete a process the Governing Body embarked upon a time ago when it originally changed the School's legal category from community to foundation. We now suggest completing this process by making our legal foundation a trust which will be known as the Stafford Community Learning Trust (SCLT). Crucially this will not mean us leaving the Staffordshire Local Authority family of maintained schools as would be the case if we became an Academy.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to use the strength of the Trust to create a community which seeks to raise the enjoyment, achievement and aspirations for all, and ensures children and their families are supported from early years and through school. The values of the Trust are underpinned by the principles of equality, inclusion and commitment to support the well-being of every child and their families in our schools. It is the key role of the Trust to raise attainment by:

- Improving the quality and consistency of teaching;
- Increasing aspirations among learners, parents and all those who work with our children;
- Harnessing resources efficiently in the interests of learning;
- Creating the right conditions for enjoyable effective learning.
- Increasing the enjoyment and achievement of all stakeholders by working with a variety of innovative educational partners, from the community and beyond, in order positively to impact on learner outcomes.
- Embracing co-operative values and principles:
  - Self help
  - Self responsibility
  - Democracy
  - Equality
  - Solidarity
  - Ethical values

## WHAT IS A TRUST SCHOOL?

This is a type of school that, while still being part of the Staffordshire Local Authority family of maintained schools, has the opportunity to be supported by a Charitable Trust set up to help the drive for improved standards within schools, in particular, though engaging with the wider community.

## WHAT IS A CO-OPERATIVE TRUST SCHOOL?

The Co-operative Trust model enables schools to set themselves up as co-operatives, following co-operative values and principles. An important attraction for us in the co-operative school model is that it will ensure that the historic co-operative values and ethos, as well as its ethical principles and co-operative ways of working are formally embedded in our school. In many ways we already subscribe to these.

What is different about a co-operative foundation trust such as SCLT is that the trust itself is a co-operative. This means that over time stakeholders, be they staff, parents, carers, people who work and live locally and vitally our learners can also join the trust as members. In due course there will be the opportunity for other groups or bodies such as other schools and educational establishments to join the Trust. This is potentially very important as we believe (based on evidence from elsewhere) that this will help us to raise participation and attainment. Another important attraction for us in the co-operative school model is that it will ensure that the historic co-operative values and ethos, as well as its ethical principles and co-operative ways of working are formally embedded in our school. In many ways we already subscribe to these.

## THE STAFFORD COMMUNITY LEARNING TRUST

The Stafford Community Learning Trust was originally created nearly two years ago at a time when it was believed that a number of other local schools would consider joining. This did not happen as quickly as was anticipated so we can be the first school to take advantage of this existing legal structure.

## WORKING CLOSELY WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

We already work closely in an informal manner with many of our local primary and secondary schools. We are also part of the Stafford Collegiate that works collaboratively to offer Sixth Form provision. Our hope is that joining the Trust will help us build a strong partnership of schools supported by the Trust which will work together to further improve standards, outcomes and services for children, young people and their families within our local school communities. Our Headteacher and our Governing Body believe strongly that by working together we can achieve significantly more, for our school as well as other local schools, than we can by working alone. We would therefore like to build on the work already being undertaken by forming a strongly mutual co-operative Trust to support and secure our work.

## OFSTED INSPECTION

In 2012 Stafford Sports College was inspected by *Ofsted* and found to be a 'Good' school. The inspection team's main findings were:

- Teaching is good and a significant proportion is outstanding.
- Leaders provide outstanding care for all students and consistently strive to raise their aspirations and build their confidence.
- Students behave well and, when they are appropriately challenged, their behaviour in lessons is outstanding.
- Teachers manage behaviour consistently well and the school's expectations of behaviour are continually rising.
- Students feel safe and say that there is always an adult who will listen if they have a problem.
- The Sixth Form is good and the curriculum, provided through the Collegiate, is outstanding.

## WHAT WOULD STAY THE SAME?

The school would continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive the same Local Authority funding and be subject to OFSTED inspections. It would also remain part of the Staffordshire Local Authority family of schools. Our Governing Body would remain fully responsible for the school's delegated budget and overseeing the running of the school. The Governing Body would continue to legally employ staff. We remain responsible for our own admissions arrangements and continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code and statutory SEN guidance and legislation. The admissions process would continue to be administered by the Local Authority. Teachers and support staff would automatically continue to be employed on their existing terms and conditions.

## WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

School assets (grounds and buildings) would be held in Trust rather than by the Local Authority. The Trust will appoint 2 or 3 Governors to support and strengthen the Governing Body. It will also set up a Members Forum to represent the views of all members of the Trust including parents/carers, staff, pupils and the local community. Another important attraction for us in the co-operative school model is that it will ensure that the historic co-operative values and ethos, as well as its ethical principles and co-operative ways of working are formally embedded in our school. In many ways we already subscribe to these informally.