



Goat Lees Primary School
Hurst Road
Kennington
Ashford
TN24 9RR

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27 April 2017

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

Proposal to join the CARE Foundation Trust

The Governing Board of Goat Lees Primary School is considering formalising our relationships with other schools from our Collaborative Approach to Rural Education family of schools (CARE) by forming the **CARE** Co-operative Education Trust with 1st August 2017 as the proposed implementation date.

We are committed to continue raising expectations and standards in our schools and working to improve the future prospects for all of our learners. To do this - with the many changes taking place in education - we believe we need to build strong and long-term partnerships and make our school improvement planning more sustainable.

Our vision is to use the formation of the CARE Foundation Trust to build on and strengthen what the collaboration has already achieved in terms of support and sharing best practise, and to create a learning community which seeks to further improve teaching and learning for all. Becoming part of a trust ensures each school can maintain their own individuality – ethos and vision - whilst allowing a support network which will give all participating schools the opportunity to succeed.

Specifically, the main aims are:

- To develop outstanding teaching for all our learners
- To ensure that our education partnership involves working with the wider community
- To harness the practical benefits of a wider working group

The school will remain part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable trust which would be represented on our governing board. The trust board will have representatives from all member schools on it. It is important to be aware that our own governing board will continue to run the school, handle the school budget and be responsible for the performance of our school. The Trust will support us when we need to work on shared priorities and will help to provide additional resources and expertise.

There is no intention of changing staffing arrangements as a result of these proposals.

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:** CAREFT@csnetwork.coop or via the online questionnaire at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P5T9Z9Y> by 26th May.

Further information is provided in the full **Statutory Proposal Consultation** document which can be obtained from the school or downloaded from the website: www.goatlees.kent.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

T A Adams
Teresa Adams
Headteacher

R Hawes
Rita Hawes
Chair of Governors

Consultation Summary information



The Reason for the Consultation:

The Governing board for each of the following schools is proposing to change their legal school category from community to foundation (except for Goat Lees Primary School, which is already a foundation category school and Brabourne CE Primary & Chilham CE Primary, which are Voluntary Controlled CE Foundation schools, seeking to acquire full partnership status) and proposing to acquire charitable status by forming a co-operative trust with other schools who are members of the CARE (Collaborative Approach to Rural Education) family of schools.

Aldington Primary School, Roman Road, Aldington , Ashford , KENT TN25 7EE

Brabourne CE Primary School, School Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, KENT TN25 5LQ

Brook Primary School, Spelders Hill, Brook, Ashford , KENT TN25 5PB

Challock Primary School, Church Lane, Challock, Ashford , KENT TN25 4BU

Chilham St. Mary's CE Primary School, School Hill, Chilham, KENT CT4 8DE

Goat Lees Primary School, ,Hurst Road, Kennington, Ashford, KENT TN24 9RR

Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School, Bridge Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EA

Mersham Primary School, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, KENT TN25 6NU

Phoenix Primary School, Belmont Road, Ashford , KENT TN24 9LS

Smeeth Primary School, Caroland Close, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6RX

This letter and summary information provides an introduction to the Proposal - including how we are planning to develop and improve our schools - and why we think that joining the CARE Foundation 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 joining in the discussion at one of the meetings
- 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: CAREFT@csnetwork.coop
- By completing an on-line survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P5T9Z9Y>

Please let us know your feedback by **26th May 2017**.

The Background:

The majority of schools in our CARE (Collaborative Approach to Rural Education) have been successfully working together for 11 years. During this time, we have raised and sustained the quality and provision of education and outcomes for our pupils within all of our schools.

We have actively engaged in the shared development of our leaders, staff and governors through joint planning, educational activities, training and school-to-school support. The value and impact of our approach has been acknowledged and commended by the Local Authority and OfSTED.

We now want to form this partnership and formalise our arrangements for collaboration to further improve each of our schools as part of the CARE group. We are proposing that our schools become CARE Foundation Trust schools, supported by the Co-operative Schools Network. Governors are seeking your views and will take these into account in deciding whether or not to proceed with the Proposal.

We believe that forming the CARE Foundation Trust at this point will allow us to continue to develop our work together in the future, while the current government policies in education are further clarified, rather than rushing into a major upheaval at this point in time.

Being part of the CARE Foundation Trust would secure the working partnership and be a ready-made model to continue to support the ongoing development of our schools whatever the changes in the educational system require in the future. We do not feel that pursuing academy status is right for our schools at this point in time because we feel that our family of schools has a good track record of supporting and developing each other and that this option preserves the characteristics of our way of working. It also allows us to keep our options open over the next few years.

CARE Foundation Trust is a co-operative, “not for profit” organisation, in which members are mutually responsible for supporting each other, but not liable for each other. The trust is a legal entity, recognised as such by KCC and the national government. Being part of the Co-operative network also allows all members to negotiate as part of a much bigger entity – offering financial benefits to all trust schools.

The Vision and Values of the CARE Foundation Trust:

- Our vision is to use the formation of the Trust to build on and strengthen what the collaboration has already achieved in terms of support and sharing best practise, and to create a learning community which seeks to further improve teaching and learning for all. Becoming part of a trust ensures each school can maintain their own individuality – ethos and vision - whilst allowing a support network which will give all participating schools the opportunity to succeed.
- The CARE Foundation Trust will work together to ensure a high-quality learning experience for children within Trust schools. The Trust will provide a strong and well-tested legal entity through which to collaborate more effectively for the benefit of our pupils. The trust will seek to engage external partners to strengthen the quality of education on offer.
- As a Co-operative Education Trust, we will adopt and support the values and principles of the co-operative movement in our work: all Co-operatives are based on the values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity**. Co-operative members also believe in **honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others**. Members of the Foundation Trust board will continue to consult with and represent all members of the school communities and other stakeholders involved in our schools including staff, pupils, parents and members of the local communities.

Further Information:

We are arranging a series of discussion meetings to provide further information. At these meetings, we will provide further details and there will be opportunities to discuss our reasons for forming the CARE Foundation Trust family. We hope you will be able to join us – you are welcome to come to whichever meeting is most convenient for you. If you are unable to get to any of these meetings, please do still let us know if you have any particular views about the Proposal.

Venue	Schools	Meeting dates, times and audience		
		Date	Time	Audience
St Mary's Church, Chilham The Square, Chilham, Canterbury CT4 8DB	Chilham St Mary's CEP Challock Primary	9 May 2017	09:30	Parents/Public
Challock Primary School, Church Lane Challock, Ashford TN25 4BU	Chilham St Mary's CEP Challock Primary	9 May 2017	15:45	Staff
Phoenix Primary School Belmont Road, Ashford , KENT TN24 9LS	Phoenix Primary Goat Lees Primary	9 May 2017	14:30	Parents
			16:00	Staff
Goat Lees Primary School Hurst Road, Kennington, Ashford, KENT TN24 9RR	Phoenix Primary Goat Lees Primary	9 May 2017	17:30	Parents/Public
Aldington Primary School Roman Road, Aldington , Ashford , KENT TN25 7EE	Aldington Primary Mersham Primary	10 May 2017	15:30	Staff
			18:00	Parents/Public
Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School	Lady Joanna Primary	10 May 2017	16:00	Staff
			19:00	Parents/Public
Smeeth Primary School Caroland Close, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6RX	Brabourne CEP Brook Primary Smeeth Primary	11 May 2017	14:15	Parents
			16:00	Staff
			18:00	Public

Thank you for your interest