



Oldham Metropolitan Borough

THE RADCLYFFE SCHOOL

"Working Together for Excellence"

27 April 2010

Dear Colleague

At the meeting of the school Governing Body on 30th March 2010 it was decided, subject to receiving written assurances from the Local Authority regarding support staff pensions, to:

- change the school category from Community to Foundation;
- adopt a charitable Trust named The Radclyffe Co-operative Learning Trust, which shall be a co-operative membership trust; and
- implement from 1st May 2010.

This is in line with the consultation and published statutory proposal.

The Governing Body has now received the necessary assurances regarding pensions and I can confirm that the above changes will take effect from the 1st May 2010.

The decision was taken as the Governing Body believe the Trust will raise standards through the creation of a platform for on-going improvement. The resources and expertise brought to the Trust by the partners will strengthen strategic leadership, increase support and challenge and consolidate effective monitoring, thereby promoting improvement in outcomes for students.

The mutual co-operative nature of the membership trust with its high levels of stakeholder involvement and accountability will greatly assist in further raising the profile of education and the extended schools/Every Child Matters agenda across our community and lead to enhanced community cohesion.

This decision followed a wide consultation process during which all relevant parties were consulted and consultation meetings were held for, staff, parents, the Student Council, the general public and unions and trade associations. Statutory guidance was followed and the views of those consulted were considered by the Governing Body prior to the required Statutory Proposal being published. All representations made in response to the Statutory Proposal were considered prior to the Governing Body deciding to proceed to implementation.

All parties in the proposed Trust will have a shared interest in developing a range of services and activities to support The Radclyffe Co-operative Learning Trust. The Trust will support, commission and provide a strategic direction and enhance provision of local services. The Learning Partnership will make a difference in the following ways:

Hunt Lane, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 0LS

Telephone: 0161 622 3200 Fax: 0161 633 2183

e-mail: admin@theradcliffeschool.co.uk

website: www.theradcliffeschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr H S Hayer B.A., M.A. (Ed)

Deputy Heads: Mrs D Wood B.A., Mrs S Webb B.Ed.

Chair of Governors: Cllr J. Greenwood

A Specialist Technology College



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Award



www.theradcliffeschool.co.uk

- We are used to working collaboratively due to our HPSS (High Performing Specialist School) status. We moved into our brand new "state of the art" PFI school in February 2008. The new building provides an ideal opportunity for us to make a difference with our students and the community at large.
- Our Trust will aim to support and strengthen community cohesion through the Cooperative Model. We have decided to use this model as it enables those who are directly involved in the school, parents, carers, staff and learners, to become engaged in its long-term strategic direction through membership of the Trust.
- Acquiring Trust Status along the Co-operative model will help our school build long term sustainable relationships with partners. Links between our school and partner organisations are made permanent rather than being over reliant on current relationships between staff. By using their experience and expertise we will strengthen leadership and governance to help raise standards further.
- We believe that engaging members, alongside the organisational partners detailed, is essential if we are to achieve our vision of transforming educational opportunities for all in the community we serve. It will also encourage our hard to reach members of learners' families, to become more involved in our educational offer.
- The school is ambitious and aspires to be the best secondary school in the country.
- We want to further accelerate the pace of improvement through partnerships with organisations with values akin to ours. They will offer appropriate expertise to engage our students and our community more actively in social change, and to help us value and reward achievement in a wider range of formal and informal settings.
- With the educational landscape of Oldham changing with the advent of new Academies, Trust schools, Foundation schools, faith schools and the BSF programme, the school wishes to continue to develop its distinctive and compelling local "brand" so that it remains a credible and positive first choice for local parents.

As a co-operative trust a Stakeholder Forum representing the various constituencies of membership shall be developed in the trust's first year (further details will be provided in the near future.) This Forum will represent the membership and hold the Trust to account. It shall also appoint 3 Trustees to the Trust Board.

The school will continue to be run and managed by the Governing Body as before with the additional benefits of Trust partners and 2 Trust nominated Governors to assist us in our future developments.

This is a very exciting development for the school and I look forward to the benefits it will bring to all our stakeholders.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Mr JW Greenwood
Chair of the Governing Body.