

- Each Governing Body receives a report about the outcomes of the consultation and then considers the consultation responses (between 28 October and 4 November).
- The Governing Bodies then issue a Statutory Notice about proposals to become a Trust should they decide to proceed. This period runs for 4 weeks after the October half term break.
- Governing Bodies would then consider any response to the Statutory Notices and make a final decision about whether to proceed or not. (By 31 December)
- Any schools deciding to proceed must work through employment, land and buildings legalities with the support of the Local Authority.
- Companies House and the Charities Commission have to be notified to establish the Company and secure Charitable status .
- Proposed implementation date for the Trust is 1st April 2014.



GOSFORTH SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION TRUST

Ten schools in Gosforth and North Newcastle, namely:

**Archibald First
Broadway East First
Gosforth Park First
Regent Farm First
Gosforth Central Middle**

**Brunton First
Dinnington First,
Grange First,
South Gosforth First,
Gosforth East Middle,**

...are proposing to change their category from community to foundation schools, and at the same time acquire charitable status as a Foundation Trust. The working title will be the Gosforth Schools Foundation Trust.

Archbishop Runcie First School is already a Foundation Trust School and therefore will not be changing status. However, they intend to be an equal and active partner of any Gosforth School's Trust.

This flyer provides a basic summary of the consultation process. A full booklet and answers to Frequently Asked Questions will be available on each school website from 16 September along with response forms.

Current partnership and new proposals

- The eleven named schools have worked together for mutual benefit over many years.
- The Headteachers meet together regularly to share ideas and good practice and this has helped our schools to improve.
- This collaborative working has provided the basis for establishing a common set of aims and values. These have been further developed by governors as the vision and values for the proposed Trust.

- The purpose of the proposed Trust will be to deepen, extend and build the sustainability of our collaborative working, so as to drive further improvements in standards and increase opportunities for pupils, staff and families.
- The consultation is open to everyone who might be affected by the proposed changes: parents/carers, pupils, staff, governors, potential partners, the wider community.

What is a Trust School?

A Trust school is a government-funded foundation school which is supported by a Trust. Trusts can be set up by individual schools or groups of schools and usually involve collaboration with partners. Partners from the world of business, higher education and the public sector can be approached to join the trust to share their expertise.

If we became a Trust school what would change and what would remain the same?

Stay the same:

- Each school would continue to have and be controlled by its own Governing Body.
- Schools would continue to teach the National Curriculum and be inspected by Ofsted.
- They would still receive funding from the Local Authority (LA) and be part of the Newcastle family of schools.
- Teachers and support staff would be employed on the same terms and conditions under a TUPE transfer.

Change:

- Each Governing Body would be the employer of the staff instead of the LA.
- Each school will be responsible for admissions but will follow the National Admissions Code.
- The buildings and grounds of each school would be held by the Trust but each Governing Body will still be responsible for maintenance.
- The Trust would be responsible for appointing two governors to each school Governing Body. These will not necessarily be additional to the current complement, but may be drawn from the current membership.

We do not perceive that changing to a Trust will have any negative implications for the schools

If so much would stay the same why are we considering changing now?

- The main reason is that by establishing closer collaboration between each other and a small number of partners, we will be able to be even more effective in bringing about improvements in each school.
- The environment in which our schools operate in is both fluid and unpredictable; it is better to take the initiative ourselves and make our own decisions on what is best for our current and future pupils.
- Through the purchasing power of the Trust we can create economies of scale that would enable us to get more from our budgets.
- As the Trust would be a charitable organisation we would also be eligible to bid for funds which schools are not allowed to access.
- The partners we might attract are unlikely to want to work with individual schools. However, working at a strategic level with a Trust Board could be much more attractive and could be of significant benefit to the schools.

What do we need to do?

- Each Governing Body goes through a consultation process about becoming a Trust with all stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff, governors and other members of the community). This stage of the process runs from Monday 16 September to Monday 14 October 2013. There will be plenty of opportunities during the 4 week consultation phase for you to find out more and make your views known.