



City Community Learning Trust



Dear Parents

Just over 12 months ago we launched the City Community Learning Trust (CCLT). This is a Co-operative Trust including and run by The City School, Intake Primary, Stradbroke Primary, Woodthorpe Community Primary and Woodhouse West Primary Schools.

This means that each school is a Foundation School, in many ways independent from but still maintained by the Local Authority.

So what? You may well ask. You may also ask what was the point and what has been achieved that wouldn't otherwise have been?

Another good question would be what is going to happen in the future?

Hopefully the following information will be interesting and useful in getting you up to speed and helping you to feel more involved in the work of the Trust.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

Trust Board Partnerships

A trust board has been established. This body of "trustees" is made up of executives and partners. Their role is to meet three times a year to set the direction of the trust and therefore the schools. This means that they take the lead in making sure that the schools are striving to meet the needs of all children and the wider community.

At present the Trust Board is made up of the five Headteachers, five governors (one from each school) and partner representatives from health, further education and the Co-operative College. These are:

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| Bethan Plant | – Health |
| James Smythe | – Sheffield College – Peaks College |
| Reg Tooth | – Sheffield Hallam University |
| Simon Hampton | – Woodcraft Folk (Co-operative Partner) |

The Trust Board nominates 2 independent governors from the community to sit on each governing body and represent the Trust Board.

In the future we will look to include other partners who can bring expertise and knowledge that will help us meet the needs of our children and communities.

There will also be 2 members of the Trust Board who are elected by a Community Forum.

Business/Management

The schools are now working together to find significant financial savings and improved services to release more funds to spend directly on children. To this end we have established the following:

- One company providing grounds maintenance services at a much reduced rate for most schools.
- A catering manager employed to run the catering services at City School, Woodthorpe and Woodhouse West giving savings and high quality meals.
- An in-house payroll provider providing significant savings for this service.
- A Key Stage 2 inclusion facility specifically included as part of new build at City. This will be used to promote inclusion and transition for Junior Children across the Trust.
- Shared teachers – modern foreign language, music, enterprise and ICT staff are working in different primary schools across the Trust.
- A School Nurse is to be employed to provide medical support and advice for children and families across the Trust. The nurse will be based in City School but will have a large amount of time in each of the primary schools.
- We have co-ordinated the dates for training days across the trust so that all schools are, whenever possible, closed on the same days.

Teaching and Learning Development

- We now have a much more planned and coordinated approach to transition. Regular meetings are held to plan transition arrangements and take account of the individual needs of children. In addition a number of activities have been carried out already and are being planned for the future. These are to ensure that children can transfer with confidence to secondary school and to build relationships between the children from different schools before they transfer. Activities have included:
 - a disco/ball for Year 6 children hosted at The City School
 - a number of fantastic mini-Olympics events for different year groups
 - school sports partnerships activities and competitions
 - ICT activities such as blogging
- Maths – subject leaders from each primary school and from The City School have met several times to agree and develop common approaches

to calculation, shape, space and measure and data handling. This includes the way that children record their work and work things out so that when they arrive in Year 7 they all use the same format and approach.

- A literacy consultant has been employed to work in the Trust this year to develop and improve reading and writing from Foundation to Year 7 and beyond. Specific projects have been run with Y1, Y3 and Y5 teachers in all schools and meetings have been held for F.S., Year 2 and Year 6 and 7 teachers to share ideas, agree approaches and compare standards across the trust.
- An INSET Day was held in January that brought together the staffs from all 5 schools. This was led by Will Ryan, a nationally renowned speaker in education on the theme of inspirational approaches to learning.
- The art department at City have worked jointly with Woodhouse West on a project for gifted and talented children.

None of the above activities happened before the City Community Learning Trust was formed. The Trust has given us the motivation to work a lot more closely together.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have a number of plans to continue developing ways working together more closely for the good of all children in all of the schools, both in terms of business management and teaching and learning.

In addition the Trust was set up as a cooperative. One of the main reasons for doing this was a requirement to develop community involvement in education and to give a voice to the local community when it comes to education and the schools that serve the area.

Three main ways of doing this are:

1. Develop a co-operative membership amongst students, parents, staff and local community members and businesses.
2. From these members we need to set up a Community Forum that will give interested members of the community a chance to voice their opinions and put forward their ideas regarding education across the Trust.
3. The Forum will be able to elect two people to represent their views on the Trust Board.

We need to get busy building the cooperative membership and starting the Forum.

To do this each school has a named Trust Champion. Their role is to engage with/persuade local businesses to give benefits to CCLT members, encourage students, parents, businesses and community members to become members and then establish the Forum.

Look out for information in the very near future on cooperative membership and the Forum.

We are still very excited about the Trust in all of our schools. This is just the beginning of a partnership between the schools and our communities that we are convinced will improve the education, health and life chances of every pupil in our care.

We very much look forward to working with you as we move forward positively in to the future.

Yours sincerely

Larry Angel MBE
Chairperson of the CCLT Trust Board