



LONG DITTON
INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL
THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911



The Ember Learning Trust

(A mutual schools' Co-operative Education Trust)

Consultation

The Reason for the Consultation

The Governing Bodies of **Hinchley Wood Primary School, Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School, Thames Ditton Infant School and Thames Ditton Junior School** are proposing to change their legal school category from community to foundation and, at the same time, acquire charitable status as a shared co-operative Trust; to be known as **The Ember Learning Trust**.

Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School is planning to join the Trust as a partner school.

This is a summary of the full Proposal which provides further detail and is available at our school as well as electronically from our website.

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:

- a) Reading this information and asking for further information if you need any.
- b) Attending one of the consultation meetings details are shown below.

You can respond to the consultation

- By completing the Proposal Consultation response forms, which are available from the schools
- By sending comments or requests for further information by email or in writing to the schools: consultation c/o The Governing Body

Contact Details for the schools consulting:

Hinchley Wood Primary School

Claygate Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 OAQ

Website: www.hwps.co.uk

Email: admin@hinchley-wood-primary.surrey.sch.uk

Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School

Ditton Hill Road, Long Ditton, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5JB

Website: www.longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Email: trustschools@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Thames Ditton Infants School

Speer Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0PW

Website: www.thames-ditton-infant.surrey.sch.uk

Email: info@thames-ditton-infant.surrey.sch.uk

Thames Ditton Junior School

Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0BS

Website: www.tdjs.org

Email: admin@tdjs.org

Long Ditton St. Mary's (Partner)

Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School as a church school already has the church as their foundation and therefore cannot become a foundation member of the Trust. They will be a partner in the Trust. Members of the school community are very welcome to take part in the consultation by responding to the letter and summary proposal sent home with the children or by attending any of the meetings listed below.

We want to consult widely about this Proposal to ensure all interested parties have their say.

If you know of any other stakeholders who should be contacted, please inform the school.

A number of consultation meetings at which you can find out more have been arranged as follows:

- Friday 15th April at 9.30am: Trade Unions & Professional Associations representing staff
- **Monday 25th April 2016 at Hinchley Wood Primary School**
 - 3.00 p.m. Parents and Carers
 - 4.00 p.m. Staff
 - 6.00 p.m. Local Community/ Public Meeting
- **Tuesday 26th April 2016 at Thames Ditton Infant School and Thames Ditton Junior School**
 - 1.15 p.m. Joint Pupil meeting at Thames Ditton Infant School
 - 2.00 p.m. Joint Parent/Community meeting at Thames Ditton Infant School
 - 3.30 p.m. Joint Staff meeting at Thames Ditton Junior School
 - 6.00pm Joint Parent/Community meeting at Thames Ditton Junior School
- **Thursday 28th April 2016 at Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School**
 - 3.00 p.m. Parents and Carers
 - 4.00 p.m. Staff
 - 6.00 p.m. Local Community/ Public Meeting

All schools will also be discussing the Proposal with learners, to see what their views are.

The key points for this proposal

The Ember Learning Trust

1. The Governing Body and the leadership teams of Hinchley Wood Primary School, Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School, Thames Ditton Infant School and Thames Ditton Junior School have been considering how best to plan for the long term future of the school, in the light of changes happening in the public education service.
2. We want to ensure that we continue improving the service we offer to our children and young people and we want to become part of a regional and national network of schools and partners that can help us to deliver that ambition.
3. To take this plan forward, we are proposing to change the school category from community to foundation and at the same time to acquire (establish) together a Co-operative Education Trust, to be called **The Ember Learning Trust**.
4. The proposed date of implementation (i.e. the date on which any legal change of category would take place and the Trust would be created on) is 1st July 2016.
5. The process of change will not result in noticeable day to day differences for our school, but we believe that setting up this partnership will allow us to join a group of like-minded education providers and learn from the shared expertise and experience they offer.
6. Further information is provided below – we would be pleased to hear what your thoughts are and invite you to become a member of the Trust so that you can contribute to its work if we do go ahead.
7. You are invited to comment on these proposals at any time until the end of the consultation period, which runs from 12th April 2016 – 24th May 2016.

'The White Paper' published on 17th March lays out an expectation that all schools will become academies by 2022. As a group of schools we aim to form a trust providing excellent education for our children now. In the future we intend to address the issue of academisation once changes to the law have been made and a clear path has been identified.

8. *The vision we have for our proposed Education Trust is of a strong partnership that helps us to:*
 - Develop outstanding teaching for all our learners.
 - Increase the level of aspiration and opportunities for our community.
 - Realise the potential of every young person in our community.
 - Ensure excellent employment prospects for our learners.
 - Enrich the curriculum by providing innovative curriculum opportunities to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world, to raise self-esteem and promote pupil wellbeing
 - Improve the experience of transition for our learners at each key stage.
 - Develop our partnership with our parents and the wider community.
 - Develop stronger partnerships with other education providers and employers.

9. 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.