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

The Ember Learning Trust

The Governing Body of Hinchley Wood Primary School, Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School, Thames Ditton Infant School and Thames Ditton Junior School are considering becoming foundation schools and acquiring a Co-operative Education Trust with July 2016 as the proposed implementation date.

Long Ditton St Mary’s Junior School has worked closely with the four schools forming the Cooperative Trust for many years. As a church school they cannot be a founding member but will join the Trust as a partner working on an equal footing with the other schools.

The rationale for this proposal is as follows.

1. We want to continue to raise expectations and standards in the school and improve the future prospects for all of our learners.
2. To do this - with the many changes taking place in education - we need to build strong partnerships and make our school improvement planning more sustainable.
3. We believe that to meet the needs of our community, we can achieve more through formal education partnerships, than we will be able to by working alone.
4. The proposed Education Trust would
   a. establish a formal partnership and allow us to work with other co-operative schools
   b. underpin the values of the school, which are in line with universal co-operative values; and
   c. help us to deliver our school’s vision and aims.
5. The Key aims for the school, which we believe the proposed Trust will support include:
   □ Develop outstanding teaching for all our children.
   □ Increase, still further, 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 children.
   □ 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 transition for our children at each key stage.
   □ Develop, still further, our partnership with our parents and the wider community.
   □ Develop deeper partnerships with our local university and employers.

‘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.

6. Trust schools are part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable trust
   which will appoint some of the governors. It is important to be aware that the governing
   body will continue to run the school, handle the school budget and be responsible for the
   performance of the school.
7. There is no intention of changing staffing arrangements as part 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:
trustschools@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Further details of the proposals are provided in our Proposal information pack which can be
obtained from the school or downloaded from the website: www.longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the Head and Chair of Governors
Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School