

# STATUTORY PROPOSAL

## Introductory Information

### School Details

This is a proposal to acquire foundation status and join a partnership of schools by acquiring a trust, known as United Schools' Learning Partnership. The school making this proposal is Doddiscombsleigh Primary School located at Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7PR which is a community school.

### Proposed Implementation Date

1 September 2018.

### Prescribed Alteration

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and part 2 of schedule 1 to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 that the Governing Board of **Doddiscombsleigh Primary School** intends to make a prescribed alteration to Doddiscombsleigh Primary School to change status from community to foundation status and to acquire a trust established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### Name of the Trust

The name of the trust that the Governors intend to acquire from 1 September 2018 is the United Schools' Learning Partnership.

### Consultation

The consultation documents were distributed to stakeholders on 8 May 2018. These included an information leaflet which set out briefly the implications of the proposed change of category and the proposal to acquire (join) a local mutual co-operative school trust, as well as the reasons why the Governing Board are proposing it. They also sought to answer some of the more common questions. The leaflet also included dates, times and venues of separate consultation meetings for parents/carers, staff, and other stake-holders.

Learners will be consulted via Student Council and assemblies.

An accompanying letter referred stakeholders to a much more comprehensive and in-depth consultation document (known as 'Booklet One'). This can be obtained in paper copy from Doddiscombsleigh's school office or via our websites [www.doddi.devon.sch.uk](http://www.doddi.devon.sch.uk) or [www.unitedschoolsfd.co.uk](http://www.unitedschoolsfd.co.uk) or [www.devonmoorsfederation.devon.sch.uk](http://www.devonmoorsfederation.devon.sch.uk) Similarly, available, is a detailed Questions and Answers document ('Booklet Two'.) Copies of the full proposal document in hard copy can be obtained from the school office.

A key part of the initial consultation process involves gathering stakeholder views and feedback. Also included with the documentation sent out was a consultation questionnaire. This can be completed and returned to the school office.

## **Objections or comments**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals - **by noon on Friday 22 June 2018** - any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by writing to the school at the address above or by e-mail to [admin@doddi.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@doddi.devon.sch.uk)

## **Acquiring a Trust**

The Doddiscombsleigh Governing Board, as well as the existing member and partner schools and the Co-operative Movement, currently represented by the Co-operative College, believe that Doddiscombsleigh's acquisition of the trust as its legal foundation, will provide opportunities to improve learning in our community.

**The rationale for acquiring the foundation** is that it will allow us to work closely with a group of like-minded schools to improve opportunities and standards for our children. As a small school, working in partnership will help support our aim of securing sustainable school improvement and widen the opportunities that we can provide for the children. This will occur in an environment of increasing financial restrictions that are being placed on schools. Forming a trust between all the schools will allow for greater co-operation, sharing of expertise and resources, continued cross-school improvement work and will allow other schools, who are willing to uphold the co-operative principles, to join. Our current Management Partnership with United Schools Federation will remain in place.

Doddiscombsleigh Primary School will have a foundation established otherwise than under the SSFA 1998.

The Trust currently acts as a foundation for Ipplepen Primary School, Copplestone Primary School, Filleigh Community Primary School and Spreyton Primary School.

## **Vision and Values**

The United Schools' Learning Partnership will help to formalise existing working relationships and ensure that relationships survive changes of personnel for the benefit of all schools who may join the trust in the future.

The main aims of the Trust are to:

- Further improve outcomes for all our learners in all our schools with a strengthened focus on school-to-school self-improvement;
- Support each school to become - and then remain - 'Outstanding';
- Strengthen our ability to work collaboratively and co-operatively to enable our schools to grow, develop and improve together;
- Formalise and further develop arrangements already in place for joint working;
- Develop further the skills and expertise of staff across the schools;

- Further share resources and skills across the schools;
- Further increase levels of aspiration across our school communities thereby impacting positively upon standards.

Our vision is to use the strength of the Trust to build on and strengthen what our federations and informal partnership working has already achieved. To create a learning community which seeks to improve teaching and learning further, to raise enjoyment, achievement and aspirations for all and to ensure children and their families are supported.

Acquiring a shared Trust will help us to clarify our vision and aims, continue to raise expectations and standards across our schools, and make our existing collaboration and associated school improvement strategies more sustainable. We believe that to meet the needs of our communities we need to work together as a community. We know that we can achieve more by working together than we can by working alone. A shared Trust would help to make that belief a reality.

As a co-operative trust, the Trust will adopt the values and principles of the Co-operative Movement. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The values of the Trust are underpinned by the principles of equality, inclusion and commitment to support the well-being of every child and their family in our schools. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

We have considered a variety of school structures, including academies, but feel that this model best meets our context, needs and values.

### **Trust Structure and relationship between Trust and School**

Doddiscombsleigh Primary School would appoint two trustees of the Trust. The school proposes that its trustees will be the Chair of Governors (or the Chair's nominee) and one other governor or member of staff.

It is proposed that the Trust would perform in the most effective and democratic manner if it were to be established and operate in accordance with the co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The co-operative model provides a level of community engagement and participation that is essential if the adoption of trust school status is going to achieve the school's vision for education in the community; it will assist in the promotion of community cohesion.

All parents/carers and learners attending a Trust school are eligible to become members of the Trust. This is also true of all members of staff employed by Trust schools and members of a range of community organisations supporting the work of the Trust. Family members of our pupils and past pupils as well as individuals living or working locally who identify with what the trust is seeking to achieve, can also join the Trust.

### **Trust Forum**

It is proposed to establish a Trust Forum whose members, including parents, staff,

learners and representatives of the community – both organisations and individuals - are elected from the respective membership constituency. The purpose of the Trust Forum will be to hold the Trust to account, to help shape policies and to appoint a minority of trustees. The Trust Forum will discuss issues affecting the Trust, make recommendations to the Trustees, and appoint Trustees.

Accordingly, membership of the Trust would be open to anyone approved by the Trustees who is willing to be bound by the provisions of the Trust's constitution and who is eligible for membership of any one of the following five membership constituencies:

- learners attending the School
- parents and carers of those attending the School
- staff working at the School
- members of the local School community, including the families of pupils.
- local community organisations as appropriate to the School.

There is also an option whereby the Trust can have an additional membership constituency, namely an *alumni* constituency, being drawn from past pupils.

The first members of the Trust Forum will be appointed by the Trustees. This is because it is very difficult to get the trust Forum into place until after the Trust is properly up and running. At the Trust's first AGM, the Trustee-appointed members of the Trust Forum step down and are replaced with members elected by the Trust's members if a wider membership has been developed.

The involvement of the partner in this project in no way prejudices its relationships with other education providers.

### **Trust's input into School's governance**

The Trust will appoint a minority of governors (two) to the Doddiscombsleigh Governing Board of the School as defined in Appendix 1 which also shows the proposed constitution.

### **Trust's charitable purpose and legal status**

The Trust's charitable objectives are to advance the education of the learners in the United Schools' Learning Partnership with a remit to advance the education of other members of the community and otherwise to benefit the community - it being acknowledged that in carrying out the objects the Trust must (where applicable) have regard to its obligation to promote community cohesion under the Education Acts.

The Trust will influence the future of the school, partner schools and any other schools joining the Trust in the future by developing membership of the Trust which will make a difference to learners, staff, the schools themselves and to the local community. It is expected that Trust membership will increase in future years and that the benefits will become available to a larger number of participants.

By developing an ethos of co-operation and local democracy, the proposed Trust is inclusive, community focused and centred on working with its partners and other

organisations to raise levels of achievement and aspiration for all learners and their families.

The Trust promotes the well-being, care and education of the Trust's learners by developing sustainable, successful partnerships throughout the Trust in a wide range of activities designed and tailored to raise aspirations and make meaningful contributions to every learner's development including the school improvement process.

The Trust seeks to further raise achievement and aspirations by developing throughout the Trust a strong, collaborative approach including opportunities for joint training, CPD, cross curriculum projects, shared resources, shared coaching, mentoring and evaluation.

The Trust promotes high quality learning for all by working with Trust partners and with all in the Trust to enhance and secure a wide range of opportunities for children, young people and their families both in and out of school hours. Our Trust partners will work with us to provide enhanced family learning and enable us to access resources and expertise which can make these activities sustainable.

The Trust enables everyone to work together to best provide an improved level of support for families and to enable all our children and young people to play a full part in developing activities within the community. By drawing together planned, coherent and sustainable, and equitably shared development, it will utilise all of the many elements of community to the advantage of all.

The Trust will promote innovation and improvement by collaborating with others to commission services for the benefit of Trust members, and by being commissioned to deliver programmes and promote new approaches to improving school performance.

The Trust contributes to the advancement of education and raising of 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 bringing about rapid improvement in outcomes for students.

Doddiscombsleigh Primary School already works with other schools and is currently in a Management Partnership with United School Federation which will remain in place. This work will continue so that the local area, and not just the schools acquiring the Trust, will offer community cohesion and development for our local communities and will contribute to the diversity of educational provision in the area.

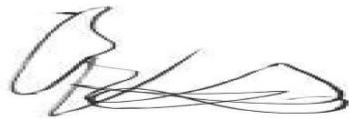
### **The school estate**

The school's land and buildings will be transferred to the Trust who holds the land for the purposes of educational provision. The Trust holds the freehold of all the schools in the Trust.

The Governing Body will become the employer of staff at the school. The school remains a maintained school under the Local Authority.

## Decision as to Implementation

After carefully considering all responses to these proposals, the Governing Board will decide whether it wishes to acquire the Trust.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Gray', written in a cursive style.

Mr Simon Gray

Chair of Governors

Dated 18 May 2018

## APPENDIX ONE.

### DRAFT INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

1. The name of the school is Doddiscombsleigh Primary School
2. Doddiscombsleigh Primary School is a foundation school with a foundation established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
3. The name of the Governing Board is “The Governing Board of Doddiscombsleigh Primary School”
4. The governing board shall consist of:
  - a) Three parent governors
  - b) One local authority governor
  - c) One staff governor
  - d) The Headteacher\*
  - e) One co-opted governor
  - f) Two foundation governors (United Schools’ Learning Partnership)
5. Total number of governors is 9 \*except at any time when the Headteacher has given notice that she/he chooses not to be a governor when the total number of governors shall be 8.
6. The name of the body entitled to appoint co-operative foundation governors is United Schools’ Learning Partnership
7. This instrument of government comes into effect on 1 September 2018
8. This Instrument was made by order of Devon Local Education Authority  
on [date].

A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing board (and the headteacher if not a governor), any trustees and to the appropriate religious body.