



ALPS

Aylesbury Learning
Partnership of Schools



Taking learning to new heights

Aylesbury Learning Partnership is a Co-operative Education Trust, currently including The Grange School, Ashmead Primary School and Turnfurlong Infant School. It was formed in September 2013 and over the interim period an effective working relationship has been developed. We have an established structure, have seen the benefit from a number of joint initiatives and are now considering the future development of the partnership.

Simultaneously, other schools have contacted us as they consider the possibility of adopting a Co-operative Trust model as one of their options. As a result, we have produced this information sheet to provide a brief insight for others within our local community.

What is a Co-operative Trust School?

Trust Schools are a type of school that have the opportunity to be supported by a Charitable Trust, whilst still being part of the Local Authority family of schools. The Co-operative Trust strengthens our drive for continuous improvement, in particular through engaging more closely with the local community.

Our schools have become Trust Schools based on the values of the Co-operative Movement and have created a long term partnership. Our current partners are The Co-operative College (a national training organisation) and Buckinghamshire County Council.

The Governing Body of each school continues to be responsible for employing staff, for admissions and for the school premises.

Our Vision for the Aylesbury Learning Partnership - Taking learning to new heights

Our three schools are committed to working together in partnership with each other and with our pupils, parents, and the wider community we seek to serve, and it is that which drives us now to seek new partnerships and opportunities.

Co-operative Values - all co-operatives develop their work based on these core values

Self Help	In co-operatives, people help each other whilst helping themselves by working together for mutual benefit	Self Responsibility	Individuals within co-operatives act responsibly and play a full part in the organisation
Democracy	A co-operative will be structured so that members have control over the organisation – one member, one vote	Equality	Each member will have equal rights and benefits (according to their contribution)
Equity	Members will be treated justly and fairly	Solidarity	Members will support each other and other co-operatives

- The key aims of our Trust are to use the expertise of our schools and our partners:
- To ensure consistently high expectations and continuing high school performance and pupil outcomes
- To raise pupil aspirations
- To continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning drawing on local expertise and national best practice
- To continue to develop the current and future leadership skills within our schools to ensure sustainable success over the longer term
- To support effective key stage transition by working together and with our other partner primary schools and education providers in the town
- To collaborate in order to develop and enrich our curriculum offer
- To use collective buying power to secure best value from our resources

Achieving aspirational aims

Learning together to enhance our community

Providing positive futures for our children and families

Securing success through co-operation

As a Co-operative Trust, we have adopted 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. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

Co-operatives principles are: Voluntary and open membership; Democratic member control; Member economic participation; Autonomy and independence; Education, training and information; Co-operation among co-operatives; Concern for community.

We have chosen to become a Co-operative Trust because these are the values and principles that we already share. They underpin the work of the Trust and we believe that this shared understanding and the work of the Trust is strengthening the work of our schools even further.

What are the intentions of ALPS?

To improve the life chances of every child in every school within the Trust -

by developing sustainable, successful partnerships throughout the Trust in a wide range of carefully designed social and educational activities, which are tailored to raise aspirations and make meaningful contributions to the development of every individual child.

To improve the quality and leadership of learning -

by developing sustainable leadership structures through opportunities for leaders at all levels to work collaboratively.

To raise standards of achievement -

by further developing throughout the Trust a stronger collaborative approach including opportunities for joint training, CPD, cross-curricular projects, shared resources, shared coaching, mentoring and evaluation. We will use and develop ICT and new technologies to enrich the learning experiences of all.

To improve the opportunities for lifelong learning for all -

by working with our Trust partners and with all in the Trust we aim to enhance and secure a wide range of opportunities for children and their families both in and out of school. Our trust partners will work with us to access resources and expertise, which can make these activities sustainable.

What does the Co-operative Movement bring to the Trust?

By becoming a Co-operative Trust, Aylesbury Learning Partnership schools have become part of the global co-operative family. We are members of the Schools Co-operative Society, the national network of co-operative trusts, and work with the Co-operative College. The Co-operative College has extensive experience in both the general school sector and the co-operative trust sector. They organise the network of co-operative schools, of which The Aylesbury Learning Partnership is a part. They also help bring a global dimension to the schools and assist in establishing national and international links with other co-operative organisations.

What does this mean for parents, carers and pupils?

Our schools continue to be distinctive and autonomous, led by their individual head teachers and governing bodies.

Their responsibilities for standards, including objectives relating to behaviour and performance are unchanged.

The Trust builds on the unique qualities of each school and therefore, through collaboration, significantly improve the educational opportunities for young people and their families. We believe that these stronger partnership arrangements between schools and extended services professionals, contribute significantly to a further improvement in each school's performance and a better educational experience and enhanced outcomes for young people and their families.



Partnership working

In the current academic year we focused on opportunities to bring the children together, sharing amongst other things dance and sporting events. Another significant project focused on self esteem and saw children and staff from all three schools working together to produce a stage performance which was showcased to parents and friends at Waterside Theatre. The year will culminate in joining together for the Roald Dahl Parade in Aylesbury.

In looking forward, the leadership teams of all 3 schools have met and agreed on a variety of opportunities to enhance both teaching and learning; including coordinated learning projects, opportunities for social development and a range of extra curricular activities. The use of IRIS is also planned to share teaching and learning across all 4 key stages, the initial focus being on literacy and communication.

With best wishes

