

**Bridge Education Trust (Southampton)**  
**(A mutual Schools Cooperative Education Trust)**  
**Consultation**

**The Reason for the Consultation:**

The Governing Bodies of **Fairisle Infant & Nursery School, Fairisle Junior School, Mason Moor Primary School, Newlands Primary School, Oakwood Primary School, Redbridge Primary School, Shirley Warren Primary & Nursery 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:

**Bridge Education Trust (Southampton)**

**Our group of schools aims to:**

- **Provide the best possible education for the communities we serve, in turn create a learning setting that is focused on giving pupils an outstanding educational environment and promoting positive outcomes for all.**
- **Work together to share ideas, enhance leadership expertise, promote best practice, offer cross-school curricular and sporting opportunities, whilst allowing each school to maintain what makes it special.**

**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 [www.rlfederation.net](http://www.rlfederation.net).

In addition, the schools of the Holy Family Partnership would continue to maintain their position within our group of schools as linked partners and are committed to the vision and values of the trust.

**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 consultation. You can do this by:

1. Reading this information and asking for further information if you need any.
2. Attending one of our consultation meetings (details are shown below).

**You can respond to the consultation** by completing [this form](#).

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.

1. The Governing Bodies and the leadership teams of Fairisle Infant & Nursery School, Fairisle Junior School, Mason Moor Primary School, Newlands Primary School, Oakwood Primary School, Redbridge Primary School and Shirley Warren Primary & Nursery School, have been considering how best to plan for the long term future of the schools, 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 our plans 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 Bridge Education Trust (Southampton).
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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
5. The process of change will not result in noticeable day to day differences for our school, but we believe that cementing our current partnership will allow us to secure our vision and learn from the shared expertise and experience our schools and partners 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 5th January 2023. There will be a virtual Zoom meeting for parents of our schools, which will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 2.00pm. Here is a link to this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88332909218?pwd=ekthUjNSVIN6MTA3TjYyYjZ0bWRKQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 3290 9218

Passcode: JMDYR4

8. The **vision** we have for our proposed Education Trust is of a strong partnership that helps us to:
  - Strengthen existing partnerships and encourage reciprocal effort in order to develop a sustainable self-improving schools' system which improves our children's educational experiences and long-lasting relationships in the community.
  - Ensure that local schools remain accountable to local people.
  - Attract and retain the best possible quality staff to work with our children and families, offering a broad range of effective and relevant development opportunities.

- Enhance the well-being of our children and all other stakeholders in our school communities.
- Further increase the levels of aspiration and opportunities for our communities.
- Promote the academic and social potential of all our young people in our community.
- Ensure improved longer term employment prospects for our learners through closer working with local secondary schools and higher education institutions.
- Work together on specific curriculum areas to enhance learning opportunities that develop our children's knowledge and understanding of the world, raise their self-esteem and promote well-being so they are prepared academically and socially to succeed in the next phase of education.
- Improve transition for our learners across their journey within our schools.
- Develop partnerships with pre-schools, nurseries, secondary schools, colleges, universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.
- Improve value for money and economies of scale in a time of real terms reduction in funding.

9. As a Cooperative Education Trust, we will adopt and support the values and principles of the Cooperative movement in our work: all Cooperatives are based on the values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity**. Cooperative members also believe in **honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others**.