

Ouseburn Learning Trust (working title)

(to include Chillingham Road Primary, Benton Park Primary, West Jesmond Primary, Cragside Primary, Heaton Manor Secondary, Hotspur Primary, Ravenswood Primary and Christ Church Primary as an Affiliated School)

‘Empowering young people to excel as individuals and contribute actively to society’

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about the **Ouseburn Learning Trust** and our thoughts about the proposed development. We are delighted to have the chance to show how the eight schools in the Partnership wish to work together in the future and how this will benefit our schools, pupils and community. We firmly believe that by working more closely together with external partners we can build a world class educational experience for young people aged 3-19. We are pleased to have this opportunity to share some of our thoughts with you and receive your comments.

The nature of education in England is changing rapidly. Much of this change is related to school governance and the changing role of the Local Authority which has a significantly reduced influence in many areas of education. In this environment the Governors and Headteachers of the eight schools in the **Ouseburn Learning Trust** believe that there is real advantage in the schools developing a closer and stronger collaborative relationship.

Our joint membership of a shared Trust will mean that everything that is already good about the current schools will be continued. Our governing bodies and school leaders will still have the same responsibilities for the education of your children as now. We believe that by establishing a Trust we can further enhance the quality of education and care that your children now receive. We have set out in this consultation document some of the different ways in which we believe we can achieve this together.



At the end of the consultation period the Governing Body will consider the outcome of the consultation and decide whether to publish statutory proposals on changing category and acquiring charitable trust. There is more

information on our school websites. Only at this point will each Governing Body make a final decision about the Trust.

Contact: westjesmond@ouseburnlearningtrust.org

What stays the same?

The School will continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive funding through Newcastle LA, following the School’s Admission Code and be inspected by Ofsted. The Governing Body will continue to be responsible for the running of the school and its budget. Teachers will automatically continue to be employed on the same terms and conditions and we will make sure that this is also true for non teaching staff. All existing staff would be subject to TUPE transfer.

What would change?

We are proud of our schools, each of which has grown in strength over recent years. We now believe it is time for us to build on the collaborative work that we have been involved in up to this point. Our aim is to give us the capacity to improve further – the achievement and welfare of your children will be at the heart of the development of a Trust.

The **Ouseburn Learning Trust** will be a charitable company that will be controlled jointly by the governors of the schools. As a charitable company, it will hold the land and buildings of the schools in trust, though the governing bodies will continue to be responsible for their maintenance. Its whole constitution and purpose will be to support the work of the eight schools, enabling the schools to speak with a stronger more influential voice to other agencies and organisations.

As members of the proposed Trust, the schools will still be part of the Newcastle family of schools-they will still be schools maintained by the Local Authority.

The Governing Bodies of the schools will still have the same responsibilities and parental representation as they have now, and in addition they will be the employers of the staff at the school.



Consultation – Starts on 11th June 2013 concludes 26th June 2013

You are able to share your views on the Trust proposal in the following ways:

Please let us know what you think about the proposals by:

- Completing and returning the Public Consultation Questionnaire
- Sending your comments to the school via email westjesmond@ouseburnlearningtust.org
- Attending a drop in/meeting to discuss the proposal

Consultation:

You are invited to attend a drop in/meeting at any of the eight schools on:

West Jesmond (Drop In)	11.06.13	9.00 am - 3.00 pm
Hotspur (Drop In)	14.06.13	9.30 am
Christ Church (Meeting)	14.06.13	9.30 am -10.30 am
Ravenswood (Meeting)	17.06.13	5.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Cragside (Meeting)	19.06.13	7.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Chillingham Rd (Drop In)	20.06.13	3.15 pm - 4.15 pm
Heaton Manor (Drop In)	24.06.13	9.00 am - 3.00 pm
Benton Park (Drop In)	24 & 26.06.13	3.30 pm - 7.00 pm



Strategic Leadership of 3-19 year olds learning in the local area

- Create a model of shared leadership and accountability for Education in the Heaton area of the city
- Create a clear identity for **Ouseburn Learning Trust** that can better communicate the excellence of the schools' work to the wider community
- Ensure provision matches need and responds swiftly to identified gaps
- Respond as a group to changes in school provision and policy change at local and national level
- Build a new supportive Trust entity on the existing excellence of the school concerned.

The Vision of the Trust

The **Ouseburn Learning Trust** will deliver a unique 3-19 collaboration of local state schools striving to raise aspirations and attainment to meet the current and future needs of our diverse young people. This will be achieved through consistently high quality teaching in an evolving relationship with committed and dynamic partners.

What do we believe the benefits of creating this Trust will be for:

Pupils

- Encourage and assist schools to raise standards of attainment for children through shared training and development approaches and information exchange
- Provide additional opportunities for learning in a variety of environments beyond the school by engaging external partners
- Offer additional enrichment activities both within the curriculum and beyond
- Move to stronger governance of schools to ensure continuity of provision for pupils now and into the future.

Schools

- Enable schools to share thoughts and ideas about how to improve the school to benefit learners through a sustainable structure
- Share resources and expertise, giving better value for money
- Work more closely with the local community across Newcastle
- Access additional funds using the charitable status of the Trust
- Deliver a more diverse curriculum drawing directly on the expertise in each of our schools
- Establish a more secure basis for collaboration and influence within statutory education and support environment
- Secure productive relationships with external partner organisations



Governance

The Trust will be a charitable company. The Members of the Trust will be drawn from the school governors, leaders, partners and other organisations that agree to work with the schools to further the aims of the Trust and our schools. Trustees (or Directors) of the Trust will be drawn from the school governors and leaders and other organisations and will be responsible for managing the Trust. In both the Membership and the Trustees, school governing bodies and leaders will always be in a majority.

The **Ouseburn Learning Trust** will communicate its work to governing bodies at their regular meetings and to parents through the newsletters and parental communications of the schools involved.