

## The Ponteland Learning Trust (PLT)

# Memorandum of Understanding

1. This Memorandum of Understanding signifies a statement of intent to collaborate, but is not a legally binding document.
2. It recognises the intention of :-

- Newcastle International Airport
- Northumberland Local Authority
- The Co-operative
- Newcastle Business School (University of Northumbria at Newcastle – UNN)
- Other Partners to be identified e.g. Northumberland County Council

to co-operate and to explore further developments in the way that they work together with a view to establishing a charitable Trust with Ponteland High School (Foundation School) and future school partners to support the education of learners in Ponteland and district.

3. The Vision for the Trust is as follows:

The Ponteland Learning Trust (PLT): a learning partnership of school(s) and external partners which will aim to:

- Share, develop and embed leading edge practice in the delivery of **personalised learning** across all key stages.
- Develop new **systems leadership** of schools to support seamless transition between phases in a three-tier system.
- Put local families at the centre of system wide pastoral care by joining up **extended schools** services and the work of external agencies.
- Develop the concept of **'global citizenship'** and promote **language learning** across the partnership through Language College status and international links.
- Raise **achievement** at all key stages with particular regard to **progress** between key stages two and four as indicated by measures of value added.

4. The Trust's particular focus will be on the following:

- **Personalised Learning**  
The PLT's primary focus is to work collaboratively on the development and harmonisation of leading edge practice in the delivery of personalised learning. 'Islands' of outstanding practice exist in all of the partnership schools involved and by joining them up we will seek to develop that practice further and ensure that it impacts on all children

in the partnership including those in schools not initially part of the Trust.

- **Systems Leadership and the Leadership of Learning**  
Much of our work will focus on classroom practice but we also recognise the importance of the leadership of learning and therefore we will seek to build new models of systems leadership, which are both sustainable and appropriate to the concept of 'all through' education and seamless transition through the phases.
- **Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning**  
Equally, the PLT will understand the importance of a positive and vibrant 'learning climate' and will aim to work seamlessly with families throughout their time in the partnership to ensure that the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) are considered in such a way that they impact positively upon children, young people and their families.
- **Internationalism**  
The PLT will develop the concept of internationalism to promote the values of global citizenship and inclusion and tolerance to develop a more cohesive community. It will seek to enhance the diversity of language learning in all of its schools

5. All Trust partners and schools will have a shared interest in:-

- Aligning institutions so that the value of education is clearly relevant and engaging.
- Having the highest possible expectations for all of our learners.
- Promoting lifelong learning.
- Supporting one another using our combined skills and expertise.
- Developing outstanding educational provision
- Providing an outstanding learning experience for all of our learners.
- Exploring a second specialism of mutual benefit to the whole Ponteland Partnership of schools.

6. **Co-operative Values:** The PLT intends to become a Co-operative Trust. As such all schools and partners implicitly endorse the values of the co-operative movement:

- Self-help.
- Self-responsibility.
- Democracy.
- Equality.
- Equity.
- Solidarity.
- Ethical Values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

7. The Trustees will meet once every term. They will meet after the independent Governing Bodies have met, receive a report from the Governors and consider any issues arising.
8. Promotional documentation will bear the names of the individual Trustees as well as details of the organisations they represent.
9. Provided Governors proceed with Trust proposals following due consultation, partners will apply for legal recognition of their charitable trust to be effective in 2010.
10. There are no financial investment requirements expected of Trustees. There is currently no fund for payment of expenses to attend meetings. Each Trustee or their represented organisation will be responsible for the commitment of time and expenses associated with attending meetings as required.
11. The Trust will be expected to appoint two Governors to the Governing Body of Ponteland High School (and other future partners schools)
12. All schools participating in the PLT will operate as equal partners in the Trust and their Governing Bodies will retain autonomy over decisions taken on behalf of individual schools.
13. According to the principles of a co-operative trust the PLT will provide a mechanism for involving different constituencies of people within the local community as members. We will establish a stakeholder council designed to be representative of the various membership constituencies which will support the schools and partners in being the guardians of the Trust's values and ethos.
14. Schools participating in the PLT will begin to consult with stakeholders in 2009.