

Your View Countsa consultation

Nessfield Primary School in Keighley plans to join Beckfoot Trust

The Proposal

The proposal is that Nessfield Primary School and Nursery converts to become an academy school and joins the Beckfoot Trust group of schools.



Background

This proposal has been established because the Interim Executive Board (Governors) at Nessfield and the Department for Education have decided it would be a good idea for the school to join Beckfoot Trust. The Directors at Beckfoot Trust agree.

Beckfoot Trust's vision is to 'create remarkable learning environments in which students expect success because of their ambitious attitude to learning, the challenge provided by staff and the support they receive at home'.

Beckfoot Trust has worked with Nessfield school staff and the Interim Executive Board (Governors) to establish if becoming a Beckfoot Trust school will be good for the pupils at Nessfield. We already know we share many values and aspirations. All our schools are inclusive and community centred. We all have good relationships with the Local Authority and other schools throughout the city. There is a great deal we already have in common.

Nessfield will be the Trust's fourth primary school joining Beckfoot Allerton, Beckfoot Heaton and Beckfoot Priestthorpe. The Trust also includes four secondary schools: Beckfoot, Beckfoot Oakbank, Beckfoot Thornton and Beckfoot Upper Heaton. As well as these mainstream schools, the Trust has Hazelbeck and Beckfoot Phoenix special schools that make up its collection of nine schools.

In practice, Nessfield will change its status and become an academy school. It will remain an individual school with the same Headteacher and staff. Any changes you notice should be the result of our collective determination to improve the outcomes for young people. There will be no change to admission arrangements. Catchment areas and admission arrangements will remain the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Academies that join a Multi-academy Trust, like Beckfoot Trust, are all governed by the Trust's single Board of Directors/Trustees. The Interim Executive Board (Governors) will therefore transfer legal responsibility for the school to Beckfoot Trust. At the same time, the staff at Nessfield will transfer from Local Authority employment to the employment of Beckfoot Trust.

The school will retain its name Nessfield and the Beckfoot name will be introduced to make clear we are all part of the same family of schools. There may be some consequential changes for signs and uniforms and these decisions will follow the consultation process and will not result in additional cost for parents.

It is important that each school plays a leading role in its own community. Beckfoot Trust believes in Bradford and in the importance of great education in anchoring the social and economic wellbeing of the City.

Timetable for the Consultation Meetings

This document will be presented at consultation meetings held at Nessfield as follows:

Consultation Meeting for Parents, Carers and Members of the Community	Location and time
Tuesday 8 th May	Nessfield Primary School 5.00pm

Please Comment

The consultation will be open for four weeks ending on Sunday 27th May 2018. You can send feedback by email, by post or by phone to Nessfield School or preferably by contacting Beckfoot Trust directly:

Email: feedback@beckfoot.org

Post to: Nessfield Feedback, Beckfoot Trust, Wagon Lane, Bingley Bradford BD16 1EE



Frequently Asked Questions?

How will I benefit from this Proposal?

Pupils will benefit by:

- ✓ Having a shared set of values that we know create happy and ambitious schools in which to learn.
- ✓ Being at a school that values their opinion and actively involves them in developing improvements in the quality of teaching, behaviour and achievement.
- ✓ Having access to a curriculum that is relevant, exciting and appropriate for them. A curriculum that allows them to succeed.
- ✓ Having an assurance of high quality teaching and support day in day out.
- ✓ Having genuine leadership opportunities that see them grow as individuals and flourish as confident young people ready to make a difference to the society they will join as adults.
- ✓ Having access to a wider set of staff expertise and a wider range of teaching and learning styles from across the Trust.
- ✓ Having increased opportunities for learning and collaboration with pupils across the Trust.

Parents and carers will benefit by:

- ✓ Knowing that their children will have access to a greater range of teaching expertise drawn from a wider collection of schools that will enhance their learning.
- ✓ Having a school with a clear ethos and a common set of values that are inclusive and student-centred.
- ✓ Having senior leadership strategies, based on 'best practice' experience that provide a strong overview and a clear vision for the school's future.
- ✓ Knowing that resources and facilities will be developed and managed to give richer provision for their children.
- ✓ Knowing that their children will be in a school striving to become a great example of comprehensive education.

Staff will benefit through:

- ✓ Being in an ambitious school that is part of an ambitious group of schools.
- ✓ Having increased opportunities to work with other colleagues in other schools. This means enhanced opportunities for teaching and professional development.
- ✓ Sharing specialist knowledge and experience e.g. teaching and learning, music, dance, drama and sports.
- ✓ Being part of a highly motivated and experienced workforce, which believes in providing inclusive education that will bring considerable benefits to all pupils.
- ✓ Having an active professional development and leadership development programme suited to their individual circumstances.

We will all benefit if:

- ✓ The pupils, staff, parents and carers of all the schools in the Beckfoot Trust commit to making a real difference for the outcomes of young people. We will set ambitious targets and challenge each other to achieve things others may believe to be beyond us.

When will all this happen?

At present, we are working towards 1st September 2018 as the date the school will become an academy and join Beckfoot Trust. However, this date is subject to us being able to complete quite a long schedule of administrative and legal work and so the date will need to be confirmed closer to the time.

Why does the school need to become an Academy?

Becoming an academy within a Multi-academy Trust is the best way of combining the strengths of several schools within a single organisation that aims to secure rapid and sustained improvement in outcomes for pupils. Other forms of formal collaboration between schools exist but they are not the favoured solution of the Department for Education and are therefore less popular. An academy is essentially an independent state school. It is funded directly by central government, is accountable to it and is independent of the Local Authority. Academies are still subject to the same Ofsted inspection arrangements as Local Authority schools.

Why alter the School's Name?

The school will retain its name, Nessfield. We will also introduce the Beckfoot name so it is clear that the school is part of a larger organisation and because it makes clear that Beckfoot Trust is accountable for the school's success.

What will happen to the existing Governors?

The existing Interim Executive Board (Governors) will be responsible for the school until it converts to become an academy as part of Beckfoot Trust. At present we are working towards a conversion date of 1st September 2018. On the 1st September the new academy will be governed by Beckfoot Trust. In a Multi-academy Trust, like Beckfoot Trust, there is only one governing body or board of directors/trustees for all the schools in the group. Beckfoot Trust will form a Local School Committee to ensure it retains a clear understanding of the specific requirements of the community Nessfield serves.

What about Staff Conditions of Employment?

Staff will transfer from being employed by the Local Authority to being employed by Beckfoot Trust. The process for doing this is regulated by the TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations 2006) legislation and this protects the rights of staff and ensures a structure for consultation.

What will happen to school uniforms?

School uniforms will not change but there may be some changes to the school logo that will be introduced over time. We don't want to create any unnecessary expense for parents and carers, and will make our proposals clear as soon as possible.

