

**Trust Schools  
Issues for Pupils, Staff and Governors**

Q: What is a Trust School?

A: A Trust School is:

- a foundation school that forges a long-term sustainable relationship with external partners through a charitable foundation or "Trust" in order to be a strong, self-confident school with a distinct ethos and to help raise standards for the benefit of all pupils
- part of the local authority family of schools, funded on exactly the same basis as other local authority maintained schools
- able to employ its own staff, set its own admission arrangements, and manage its own land and assets
- supported by the Trust through the appointment of governors to the school's governing body
- not the same as all other Trust schools. The important thing is what's right for the individual school.

A Trust school is **NOT**

- an Academy
- a GM school
- an independent or privatised school
- involved in an admissions free for all
- funded differently from community schools
- run by businesses
- separated from the LA and able to avoid LA reorganisation plans.

It is for the school's **existing governing body** to decide whether to acquire a Trust, who the members of that Trust should be, and how many governors should be Trust governors.

Q: What would be the aims of Holly Lodge as a Trust school?

A: This would be determined by the school and governors and would be likely to include:

- raising standards/levels of attainment of all learners
- increasing post 16 and post 18 participation rates, particularly those relating to health sciences
- addressing and meeting community health needs
- providing wide ranging extended services that meet community needs.

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Q: Who might the Trustees be and what might they contribute to the Trust?

A: This would be determined by the school, governors and Trustees but could well include:

<b>Possible Trust Members</b>	<b>Contribution to the Trust</b>
Holly Lodge High School College of Science and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educational expertise/knowledge and experience in the local community</li> <li>○ Collaborative contributions of key staff in meeting the aims of the Trust</li> <li>○ Leadership and management skills in education and Children’s Services</li> <li>○ Key links with post 16 providers, Higher Education Institutions and wider progression routes for learners</li> </ul>
Local Authority/Children’s Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support for and strengthening of local partnerships</li> <li>○ Expertise across all children’s services functions</li> <li>○ Expertise in adult, community and family learning</li> </ul>
Sandwell Primary Care Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expertise and experience of health provision and services</li> <li>○ Ensuring work experience placements and career pathways for pupils</li> </ul>
A Sports or Leisure Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expertise and experience of promoting sports and exercise</li> <li>○ Ensuring work experience placements and career pathways for pupils</li> </ul>
Higher Education Institution(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sharing information regarding changing HE progression routes</li> <li>○ Curriculum development research</li> <li>○ Providing wider research based experience</li> </ul>
Education Charity/Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commitment to Every Child Matters and extended services</li> </ul>

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Q: What would be the general benefits to the school?

A: Through formalised relationships with partners

- a commitment to excellence
- establishing a distinctive ethos for the school within the local community at a time when parents are being heavily influenced by local Academies and perceptions about community issues and behaviour at Holly Lodge
- preparing for BSF and then adding value to BSF
- supporting sustainable developments and partnerships with key local community organisations
- greater control over admissions.

Q: How would pupils benefit?

- access to health facilities and a health-based curriculum
- better work experience/work placement opportunities
- better accommodation and resources in specialist areas (science, health, PE/Sport)
- access to a wider range of health professionals and support
- enriched curriculum (all areas)
- health sciences post-16 courses at the school with an attractive range of general post-16 provision
- increased higher education take up
- wider range of extended services
- higher status in the local community.

Q: What are the implications/benefits for staff?

- better recruitment of staff
- more flexible support staffing structures and new posts of responsibility for teaching and support staff (not tied to LA structures)
- wider training and development opportunities
- opportunities for research
- links with higher education institutions
- greater post 16 teaching opportunities
- opportunities to engage in 'cutting edge' curriculum planning and developments
- change of employer but no changes to conditions of service (Trust schools **must** comply with the national School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document).

Q: What are the implications of retaining the status quo?

A: Missed opportunities:

- for long term, sustainable partnerships that will future proof current Science and Health Innovation work, plans for Holly Lodge in BSF and extended services for the school and community (instead there would be piecemeal support for current developments and priorities)

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- to effect a radical shift in parental perceptions (1<sup>st</sup> preferences for admission in to Year 7 have over halved in two years (240 in 2005 to 120 in 2007)
- to deliver high quality commissioned services and excellent educational provision for all learners
- for staff.

### **In conclusion:**

Any decision about the long term future of the school and Foundation Trust status must be based on the benefits to young people, staff and our local community. I believe that the case is overwhelming and that the school should become a Foundation school as soon as possible and a Trust school as soon as Trust partners have been identified and all legal issues addressed and overcome.

Julian Souter  
Head Teacher  
May 2007

Holly Lodge High School College of Science

Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Body  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 at 6 pm  
in the Beacon Leadership Centre

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interest
3. What is a Trust School?
4. Aims of Holly Lodge as a Trust school
5. Potential Trustees and their contribution to the Trust
6. General benefits to the school
7. Implications and benefits for pupils
8. Implications and benefits for staff
9. Implications of retaining the status quo
10. The next steps