

SUDBURY UPPER SCHOOL AND ARTS COLLEGE

**STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE CHANGE OF CATEGORY OF SUDBURY UPPER
SCHOOL AND ARTS COLLEGE FROM A COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO A FOUNDATION
SCHOOL WITH A TRUST**

The Governing Body of Sudbury Upper School and Arts College is considering becoming a Trust School. This document explains why Trust Status may benefit the school, who the partners in the Trust will be, how the Trust will work and the results of the initial consultation.

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Introductory Information

School details:

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Category of School: Community School

Dates:

The planned implementation date for the prescribed alteration to acquire a Foundation Trust is September 1st 2009

Representations:

Any person can comment on the proposal before March 25th 2009. Representations should be sent to the Governing Body at the following address: The Chair of Governors, Sudbury Upper School and Arts College, Tudor Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1NW.

E-mail: email@sus.suffolk.sch.uk

Please mark any returns 'Statutory Proposals'.

Developing Partnership

The Trust has evolved from the joint partnership of Gt Cornard Upper School and Sudbury Upper School, which has brought significant benefits to the range of student learning in vocational areas from the age of 14 and in the Sixth Form. This partnership is developing further; we are also working on an increasingly close basis with the Primary and Middle schools in our schools' families and we hope that The Trust will form a foundation for the further development of this work and that the other local schools will consider joining The Trust either as Associate Trustees or full members.

Developing Learning

The school partnership is keenly aware of the need to raise the aspirations, improve the outcomes and broaden the horizons of all of our young people. Our proposed partners, who span the world of higher education, business, health and charitable institutions, have connections which will benefit us and which will help us to create an environment where learners will have access to and support for a wide range of very high quality learning opportunities.

Trust status will cement the relationship between Sudbury and Great Cornard Upper Schools and will connect both schools to a wide field of expertise and opportunity. The Trust is structured so that our primary feeder schools can join in future if they wish which would enable close collaboration between all phases, including the local Special School, and the development of a version of 0 to 19 learning within the local area. The partnership will lead to improved sharing of learning strategies between the schools resulting in the raising of standards and achievement. It will promote the advancement of citizenship and will facilitate the provision of improved services for students and their families

A Trust will give us a better chance of achieving our aims and sustaining partnerships over an extended period. We believe the single voice provided by the Trust would provide a more joined up approach for the provision of services, especially for vulnerable families and children within the area.

Our charitable status will open new funding streams and our increased autonomy will enhance the ability of governors to take the decisions that are right for the school, the students and their families.

Statutory Proposal for the change of category of Sudbury Upper School and Arts College from Community School to a Foundation School.

The proposed alteration is to change category from community school to a foundation school and to acquire a Trust. Proposed alterations meet the requirements on Trusts as set out in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England) Regulations 2007.

Membership of the Trust will include:

Sudbury Upper School and Arts College
Great Cornard Upper School and Technology College
University Campus Suffolk
West Suffolk College
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
St Nicholas Hospice
Suffolk PCT
World Challenge

We will continue to look for other suitable partners and we are keen to find an ethical business partner.

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The Trust will be a charitable, not for profit, Trust meeting the legal and other requirements as set out by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

The Trust will be legally established with the Charities Commission which will regulate its activities (as with all charities).

Trustees will not be able to derive an income from the Trust. Any income generated by the Trust must only be used to support its charitable aims. The Trust will not seek to change the individual characteristics of the partner schools.

The Trust will meet a minimum of three times a year and the voting Trustees will be nominated by the Trust member organisations and checked by the governing bodies to ensure that they comply with DCSF legislation. The Chair of the Trust will be elected from the Trustees. The Trust may employ officers to work on behalf of the Trust if appropriate

How the Trust will work

- (a) The Trust will be known as the ‘**Stour Educational Trust**’ (SET)
- (b) Sudbury Upper School and Arts College is clear in its aim to raise the aspirations of all students and to improve their opportunities and attainment. Our potential Trust Partners will challenge and support the School’s Leadership Team and Governors in this work.
- (c) The Trust’s Charitable Objectives are as follows:
- To raise the aspirations of all young people
 - To advance and enhance the education of all young people without distinction
 - To develop each student’s understanding of the local, national and global communities to which we belong and to develop their contributions to them
 - To work with the local family of schools to develop the educational experience and progress of our students from 0 to 19
 - To develop choice and diversity in partnership with local schools
 - To support students and their families in enabling learning and overcoming barriers to participation in learning and to raise aspiration, engagement and outcomes
 - To develop staff expertise and collaboration within the school and across our family of schools to enhance the learning of each student
 - To develop support and resources appropriate to the personalisation of each student’s learning
 - To respond quickly and effectively to change
 - To maximise the resources available to support these aims
- (d) How the proposed Trust Partners will contribute to the trust and to the realisation of strategic priorities.

Our partners represent very different kinds of organisations: higher education institutions, business interests, health and local charitable organisations. This breadth of experience will provide enhanced opportunities for students and a stimulus to the leadership, development and governance of the school.

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Our aim is to develop the broad competencies needed to be successful citizens for the future. We see 5 categories for these competencies and each of our Trust Partners has been chosen to help us deliver these. The 5 are:

- Learning
- Citizenship
- Relating to People
- Managing Situations
- Managing Information

Proposed Trust members	Contribution to the Trust
Gt Cornard Upper School and Technology College and Sudbury Upper School and Arts College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for learning. • Development of staff continuing professional development. • High aspirations in learning and planning for the future. • Shared delivery of learning and the development of effective, continuous learning pathways. • Developing the voice of students and parents in local educational provision
University Campus Suffolk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for learning. • Development of staff continuing professional development. • Teacher training and recruitment. • High aspirations in learning and planning for the future.
West Suffolk College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for learning. • High aspirations in learning and planning for the future. • Teacher training and recruitment. • Shared delivery of vocational learning and the development of effective, continuous learning pathways.
Suffolk Primary Health Care Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies in dealing with people and self. • Helping to remove obstacles to healthy living, effective and inclusive learning and high aspirations.
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for citizenship. • High aspirations for others and for the future.
St Nicholas Hospice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for citizenship. • Understanding our interdependence and mutual support.

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World Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for managing people, situations and information. • The ethical foundations of business and their importance. • High aspirations for individuals and the economy. • Understanding of business and personal finance. • The place and importance of business in the community.
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(e) One Trustee will be appointed by each of the member organisations represented on the Trust Board. The Headteachers and Chairs of Governors will also sit on the Trust Board.

(f) The Governing Body of the school will consist of 16 members. The Trust will appoint a minority of Governors in accordance with this schedule:

Parent	5
Staff	4
Community	3
LA	1
Trust	3

Which Trust Governors will be appointed to the Governing Body will be decided at the first Trust meeting.

(g) The Trust and the Governing Body will work in partnership to achieve the strategic objectives. The roles of both of these bodies are outlined below:

Governing Body Responsibilities	Trust Responsibilities
<p>Overall responsibility for the strategic development of the school (as at present). Examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring and paying staff • Ensuring the national agreements on employment are met • Organising pension arrangements, human resources, occupational health and health and safety arrangements. • Liaising with the Local authority and the Unions • Ensuring the requirements of the National Curriculum are met • Liaising with regulatory bodies regarding school matters • Dealing with other matters that are the legal responsibility of the governing body. 	<p>Achieving their charitable objectives</p> <p>Fulfilling the legal responsibilities of a charitable company such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting three times a year to discuss the advancement of students' education • Reporting as necessary to the Charity Commission • Approving the appointment of any new Trust members <p>Approving the appointment of Trust members to the Governing Body</p> <p>Holding land and assets on trust for the school</p>

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(h) The Governing Body will gain new powers and responsibilities. It will become the employer of all staff and existing pay and conditions arrangements for teaching and support staff will be maintained. The school will honour future national and local pay and conditions agreements for teaching and support staff. All staff will retain their current terms and conditions when they transfer to the employment of the Governing Body. On transfer, staff will therefore enjoy the same terms and conditions of employment as in any maintained state school.

Reference (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.

(i) The Governing Body will also become responsible for student admissions but will work jointly with the Local Authority and within the legal framework of the Schools Admissions Code for the provision of student places.

(j) The Governing Body will continue to have day to day control of the school's land and assets although these will be held by the Trust on behalf of the school.

(k) Sudbury Upper School and Arts College will continue to teach the national curriculum and will be inspected by OFSTED.

(l) The Governing Body and the Board of Trustees will work together to support and achieve the Trust's charitable objectives.

The Consultation

The following were sent proposals during the initial period of consultation which ended on 5th December 2008.

- Parents of the students currently on role at the school
- Staff currently employed at the school, both teaching and non-teaching
- All middle and primary schools currently sending children to Sudbury Upper School
- The Local Authorities
- Local MP and serving local Councillors
- Trade Unions of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Surrounding secondary schools
- Learning and Skills Council
- Connexions
- Local Children's Services
- Youth Service
- Surrounding Further Education Colleges
- Local community groups including Nursery and childcare providers
- Local businesses via Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
- Specialist Schools Trust
- Acting Diocesan Director of Education

Those consulted were invited to consider the proposals and to respond either in writing or electronically by 5th December 2008. All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult at all stages were complied with. The details and consultation form were also available on the school website. An analysis of the feedback can be found on the school web-site.

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In addition to the consultation document 2 staff meetings were held (Monday 1st December – Non-teaching Staff; Tuesday 2nd December – Teaching Staff) and a Public Meeting was held on 19th November 2008.

The Governors of Sudbury Upper School and Arts College considered the responses from the consultation at a meeting on 16th December 2008. After taking into account the responses to the consultation, and with some modification and clarification of the proposals resulting from the consultation, the Governors decided to proceed to the publication of the Statutory Proposals. Copies of the minutes of the Governing Body meeting of 16th December 2008 and of the minutes from the public meeting are available from reception at the school . Copies are also available on the school website: www.sus.suffolk.sch.uk

The Governors have followed and complied with all aspects of applicable statutory guidance in relation to consultation over these proposals and have consulted at all stages as and when appropriate.

A copy of the following documents may be obtained from the School Reception or may be viewed on the web-site www.sus.suffolk.sch.uk :

- The original consultation document
- Feedback from the 1st consultation
- Answers to questions asked during the 1st consultation
- Minutes of the Parents Meeting held on November 19th 2008
- Minutes of the Governors' Meeting held on December 16th 2008
- The Ofsted summary
- School examination results 2007-08
- The Statutory Proposals
- The Formal Notice