



The Dovestone Learning Partnership is a Co-operative Trust comprising of nine local schools:

Christ Church Denshaw CE Primary School
Delph Primary School
Diggle Primary School
Friezland Primary School
Knowsley Junior School
Saddleworth School
St Agnes CE Primary School
St Mary's, Greenfield CE Primary School



This leaflet has been written to provide you with some information about the partnership. Also check out our website at www.dovestonelearningpartnership.co.uk

What is a Co-operative Trust?

Our Trust is group of schools that have made a commitment to working together. It is a legal arrangement. In order to set up the Trust, our community schools (Delph, Diggle and Knowsley) changed their designation from Community School to Foundation School. They do, however, remain local authority maintained schools.

The Dovestone Learning Partnership is a Co-operative Trust model. The Co-operative Trust links schools together mutually using co-operative principles, which re-enforce our school's ethos, and allows stakeholders to become members of the Trust.

Background Information

The schools continue to teach the national curriculum, receive funding through the Local Authority, follow the schools' admissions code and OFSTED attend as per statutory requirements. Each school's governing body is still responsible for running the school and directly employing staff, not the local authority. School assets (grounds and buildings) are held 'in trust' by the Partnership rather than the local authority. On a day-to-day basis, there is little change for the pupils and the school community.



So Why Did We Decide to Change?

The chief reasons for change are to build on and re-enforce our commitment to our community, to continue to improve the quality of, and raise standards in, education and increase life chances and opportunities for our pupils.

We believe that by working more closely together, we can be more successful schools.

Trust status helps us to establish strong, long-term partnerships with key partners who help increase resources and opportunities for staff and pupils, at a time when the role and function of Local Education Authorities is being greatly and rapidly reduced.

We feel that we will be better able to serve our local school communities by working together to raise standards and aspirations, increase opportunities and provide greater social cohesion.



Our Vision

We are a strong family of inspiring schools that serve our local community and contribute fully to the provision of education in the area. We aim to collaborate with other partners to achieve common goals.

We aim to lead the way in education for Oldham's children and young people enabling them to enjoy learning and achieve well as individuals.

Our Values

Dovestone Learning Partnership is founded on the values of **respect, trust and solidarity** together with a **passion** for education. For our church schools this is also embedded with the Christian faith.

We are a group of schools that celebrate our individual character. Our schools may have different systems, pedagogies and cultures, but we understand the need to focus on learning and the impact of teaching to improve outcomes for children and young people in our schools.

Together we will endeavour to ensure that the children and young people in our schools receive a rich variety of learning. At the heart of our vision, is the commitment to developing a high-quality curriculum, delivered by well-trained, effective teaching and support staff, and the sharing of expertise.

So... What Do We Do?

Peer Review - working with an external consultant, headteachers review one another's schools and identify key areas of development and strengths that can be shared across the partnership.

Networks - subject leaders across our schools, meet to share skills and expertise and further develop their subject/aspect specialisms.

CPD - a whole range of CPD opportunities have been arranged to meet DLP priorities. Training has included metacognition, coaching skills, upskilling pastoral teams, development programmes for teaching assistants and lunchtime staff, together with whole partnership staff events.

Working Parties - we run four working parties: School Improvement, Well-being, Financial Efficiencies, and Curriculum Development and Transition. Run by headteachers, these working parties are responsible for ensuring that the activities we do support our vision and purpose and focus on our partnership priorities.

Extra Activities - we have supported a number of wider curricular events for the pupils, from a DLP brass band and choir, a chance to participate in a production of Carmen, a literacy festival, maths challenges, sports competitions, opportunities to try out different activities such as archery, and inter-school competitions such as the DLP Spelling Bee.



'Stronger together for our pupils'

How Can You Get Involved?

Our Partnership is what is known as a membership trust and we are keen to build an active group of members who can contribute to the DLP and support us in our vision and aims. Pupils, staff and parents/carers are all automatically members of our co-operative.

For our potential community partners, we would love to hear from you and look at how we could work together or engage in any sponsorship activities.

Here are some examples of the benefits of being involved:

- The opportunity to contribute to the quality of education and raising of standards across the DLP schools, and supporting your local school in delivering the best education for our pupils.
- Nurturing of young talent and developing their skills.
- A chance to be involved in transforming the learning experiences of children and the community.
- Training opportunities, new friendships and networks.
- Support curriculum developments to ensure that learners are prepared for a working life.
- Access to new contributors to businesses and community groups.
- There is also a chance to join the Partnership Board itself.



Members of the Dovestone Learning Partnership Board –
Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and Trust Partners

Contact Us

If you are interested in any aspect of the DLP – community representation, sponsoring our activities, becoming a partner – please get in touch with the headteacher at your school or Julie Bowdidge, who is the DLP Facilitator on juliebowdidge@googlemail.com or tel 0751 5257389.