

*The  
Innovation  
Trust*

## Our Proposed Trust

Trust schools are a new kind of school – part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable Trust which will appoint some of the governors. The governing body will continue to run the school and be responsible for its performance, and Dr Paul Kelley will continue as headteacher.

The focus of the Innovation Trust will be to create, test and share new ways to improve the achievements, well-being and aspirations of all young people through:

- New ways of learning, for example using new discoveries in neuroscience
- New pathways for learning, for example combining academic study, professional qualifications and employment
- New ways of supporting learning, for example using technologies to support each child's progress
- New ways of supporting young people and teachers using technological data systems that look at the whole child's well-being

The Innovation Trust is a partnership that draws on the expertise and experience of all its members in the best interests of young people. The Trust will devote its energies to:

- exploring new ways of improving academic achievement
- meeting new educational requirements and outcomes such as personalising learning (matching learning to the needs of the individual child), Every Child Matters support (helping children develop with the following aims: to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being), and vocational reform
- enabling Monkseaton Community High School to innovate in order to find new, better ways to improve the education of every child

Proposed Trust members	Contribution to the Trust
Independent Chair of the Trust and voting Trustee Professor David Reynolds, University of Plymouth	Will contribute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience at national policy making level, including designing the numeracy strategy</li><li>• Experience as a Board member of the ICT agency BECTa, board member of the Teacher Training Agency, and in advisory positions at DfES 1999-2006</li><li>• International expertise and reputation in school effectiveness, teacher effectiveness and school improvement</li><li>• Experience gained in his former role as Professor of Education at Newcastle University 1993-1999</li></ul>

<p>Microsoft Education (UK) – (will nominate a voting Trustee to sit on the Trust Board)</p>	<p>Microsoft’s vision in the public sector is to be seen as a partner and supporter, and not just a supplier of software. Microsoft is committed to genuine collaboration and long term partnership and will contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of free of charge software which will be kept up to date</li> <li>• Professional expertise and strategic advice to support the effective use of ICT</li> <li>• Access to resources and programmes to support innovative teaching and help raise aspirations and standards</li> <li>• Support and opportunities for staff, focused on enhancing the use of ICT, promoting flexible working and increasing productivity</li> </ul>
<p>Monkseaton Community High School – (will nominate a voting Trustee to sit on the Trust Board)</p>	<p>Will contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to innovation</li> <li>• Exceptional track record in creating new solutions that are implemented nationally</li> <li>• Educational research expertise</li> <li>• Students, staff and governors able to adopt creative approaches</li> <li>• Exceptionally good partnerships with other organisations</li> </ul>
<p>North Tyneside Local Authority – The Local Authority is in support of the formation of the Innovation Trust on the grounds that the Council can be a full voting member of the Trust Board. All other partners support this position because they recognise the strategic and democratic role the Council has. However, regulations governing the setting up of Trust schools are currently in the process of consultation on this issue.</p>	<p>Will contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The support for and strengthening of local partnerships</li> <li>• The development of strategic partnerships with Higher Education and employers</li> <li>• Expertise across all children’s services functions</li> <li>• Expertise in adult, community and family learning</li> </ul>
<p>Tribal Education – (will nominate a voting Trustee to sit on the Trust Board)</p>	<p>Will contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of innovative applications of technology to support learning</li> <li>• Experience of best practice across all phases of education – from pre-school to higher education</li> <li>• Access to the diverse experience, networks and skill sets of their staff</li> <li>• Creating innovative solutions for delivering improved educational outcomes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broad experience across all elements of children's services</li></ul>
Professor Daniel Muijs, University of Manchester (non-voting)	Will contribute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience at national and international level with evaluation of education and student achievement, for example, leading the Primary Modern Foreign Languages evaluation for the DfES</li><li>• International expertise and reputation in school effectiveness, teacher effectiveness and school improvement</li><li>• Development of self-assessment instruments and research strategies</li><li>• Data analysis</li></ul>

The Innovation Trust will have clear principles based on

- making a positive contribution to raising standards and improving education
- creating, developing and sharing innovations that are shown in rigorous trials to have real benefits
- working ethically to ensure that we only adopt thoroughly researched approaches that are proven to be beneficial
- adopting a non partisan, non religious approach in all its innovations, and ensuring equal opportunities
- open and equal access to education at Monkseaton Community High School and any schools joining the Trust's virtual federation
- working in partnership with other organisations in order to draw on the key expertise and competencies of each

### **What the Trust will do**

The Innovation Trust will establish a long-term partnership that will bring together businesses, higher education research, local government and the school. This partnership will devote itself to creating high quality learning innovations that will benefit children, parents, the community, and schools.

The Innovation Trust will help to raise standards for children and benefit the school in a variety of ways, based on innovations drawn from business and across the education sector. It will make a direct contribution to raising achievement, improving the well-being and aspirations of students. Each year it will report to the school on its programmes and their impact in these areas. This will include specific targets for improving achievement in the school, which will be a central focus of the Trust's activities. It will contribute to the diversity of local schools by becoming a Trust school, but at the same time continue to develop its partnerships with local schools

and the wider community. For example, it will develop its contribution to Monkseaton's Modern Languages programme for the whole of North Tyneside. The Trust has plans that will support the local community and develop citizenship in local partnerships with schools and others. The involvement of North Tyneside Local Authority as a Trust member will help enable the school to continue working with local schools and contributing to the local community.

The Trust will create, test, and share with others new and better ways to help students learn and develop. This approach will make a contribution in many ways, for example:

- using better information about students' ability, feelings, skills and health to better meet their needs
- improving students, staff and parents' access to - and use of - new technology
- applying best practice and new knowledge about human development from other organisations, including universities, to help students learn and school improve
- helping the school create a new building for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education

Students and the school have already benefited from the contributions of Trust members: every student has access to world class technology, students can gain a degree while working for the school, staff have new systems to support their work, and the governing body can now use modern business methods to carry out governor responsibilities ('egovernance'). The Innovation Trust will help build on and develop these benefits within a sustainable programme.

### **How the Trust will work**

The Innovation Trust will be a charitable not for profit Trust, meeting the legal and other requirements as set out by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). It will carry out its duties in relation to the school as set out by the DfES, specifically by appointing a minority of the members of the governing body. The Trust will be legally established through a formal submission to the Charities Commission, and the Charities Commission will regulate its activities (as with all charities).

There is no requirement for Trusts to contribute financially to the schools which they support. In our case, Microsoft has offered to provide software resources and so the Trust will not only benefit the students in terms of how they learn but also in terms of the resources which the school can use to support their learning. However, given the historic success of the school in attracting outside resources there may be financial income. Any income generated by the Trust must only be used to support its charitable aims.

The Trust will meet three times a year (alongside egovernance as required). The voting Trustees will be selected by the Trust member organisations, and checked by the governing body to ensure that they comply with DfES legislation. This screening process will include a CRB check. The Chair of the Trust will be Professor David Reynolds and Paul Kelley will be the Chief Executive reporting to the Trust.

The Trust will actively explore the creation of a virtual federation, a national network of about 8 schools committed to the Trust's aims and principles. The schools will be in different regions, but linked by common approaches, ICT infrastructure, and innovations. The virtual federation will support the sharing of the Trust's innovations in English regions and will be explored in year 1 for potential implementation in year 2. As always, the interests of the parents and students at Monkseaton Community High School will be considered paramount, and the creation of a virtual federation would be intended not as a dilution of resources and energies applied to the school but rather an enrichment, achieved through the sharing of information, knowledge and resources between schools. The Trust will work with other people and organisations, as appropriate, in order to carry out its work.

The Innovation Trust will establish a rigorous approach to innovation in education:

- examining new research, particularly in cognitive neuroscience
- using the findings from very high quality research to improve learning and well being
- using ICT to support creativity in learning and a world class system for managing data and information
- optimising the quality of the school environment
- delivering educational reforms like personalised learning in an effective manner
- creating a model of innovation based education

### **Background – What are Trust Schools?**

Trust schools are a new kind of school which will help schools to raise standards by bringing in and drawing on the expertise of partners. Schools can choose who they want as partners and how they want to work with them. The governing body decides whether it wants to become a Trust school after consulting with parents and other local stakeholders and publishing formal proposals.

If Monkseaton becomes a Trust school the school will take on two new areas of responsibility:

- The governing body, not the Trust, becomes the employer of staff rather than the local authority

- The governing body, not the Trust, will be responsible for setting admissions arrangements (in accordance with the law and the Admissions Code)

In addition:

- The governing body would continue to have day to day control of the school's land and assets (which the Trust would hold on trust for the school). Any issues regarding the selling of land and assets would continue to be decided by the governing body, as now.
- At Monkseaton the Trust would appoint a minority of governors