

Message of Support re Charitable Status

Further to your open evening, we confirm that we have been involved with schools taking the steps to become a foundation school. At the moment they are finding the scheme very beneficial as it creates flexibility and leaves them with the advantages of being able to use their resources in the most appropriate manner that suits the individual school.

With regard to your presentation, we feel that as stated at the meeting, you are a little reserved with regard to the benefits of the school becoming a charitable trust. Having been the chairman of a charitable trust since 1990, I have seen the benefits that it brings and the way that parties treat the money. Obtaining grants is far easier and when approaching parties for quotations for work the costs are not seen to be paid by Cheshire County Council and therefore tenderers for any service required are more favourable.

For example, for maintenance work you could appoint an independent party to ensure that any quotations that you obtain for work are completed.

We recently attended a primary school in Crewe who had been advised that a whole floor needed to be replaced due to rot, only to find out that it was in fact just the hard board that needed to be replaced and the quotation for thousands of pounds was reduced to a few hundred pounds.

The one thing that I have learned about creating a charitable trust is that it is essential that you have the initial trust deed completed carefully and accurately in order to cover all of your options, as it is a major problem to change it due to the need to obtain agreement from the charity commissioners.

In summary I would like to strongly support your application to change to a foundation school.

If you require any further assistance with regard to foundation school or charitable status I would be pleased to assist.

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