

# What is the Ember Learning Trust?

The Ember Learning Trust is a formal partnership between 6 local schools: Hinchley Wood Primary, Long Ditton Infant and Nursery, Long Ditton St. Mary's, Thames Ditton Infant School, Thames Ditton Junior School and now also includes Claygate Primary School. Trust schools are part of the Local Authority system but are supported by a charitable trust - in our case, the Co-operative Schools Network.



- Develop outstanding teaching
- Increase aspiration and opportunities
- Enrich the curriculum and the school 'offer'
- Improve the experience of transition

## AIMS

- Develop our partnership with parents
- Improve community collaboration
- Develop stronger partnerships with other education providers and employers

## Co-operative values

Each school is committed to the following values:

- Self-help
- Self-responsibility
- Democracy
- Equality
- Equity
- Solidarity



## Partnership model

This is the existing model showing our partners and the way the Trust is governed. We are looking to build greater links with the community and this model is expected to evolve as we develop.



## Links with Kingston University

Partnering with Kingston University will potential benefit us in the following ways:

- Teacher recruitment is a challenge in our area. Through closer involvement with the trainees, we can demonstrate the advantages of working with us
- We can work with the university on research into specialist areas (e.g. SEND)
- We can offer placements for their students across different age groups and different schools
- We can work together with the university in the development of their own NQT programme
- We can give interview practice for their trainee teachers

## What benefits have we seen this term?

The ELT has enabled teachers from the different schools to work together to share expertise and initiatives that really benefit children and their learning. This has included comparing the work of children in each of the schools, and looking at standards in English and Maths, for example. Two events have taken place this term in which specific training has been jointly delivered. This includes:

- The new Personal, Social and Health (PSHE) Curriculum which will become a statutory subject from 2019
- Spelling - teachers from 5 of our schools took part in a very stimulating training session on spelling with plenty of practical advice based on sound spelling

As a Trust, we are able to jointly purchase resources, which not only ensures consistency in approach, and the ability for teachers from the different schools to share ideas and work together more closely, it also helps lower cost through our collective 'buying power'. In preparation for the introduction of the new PSHE curriculum, all of the schools within the Trust have agreed to use a new scheme called Jigsaw (go to <https://www.jigsawpshe.com/> for more information). The scheme is comprehensive with some very interesting lesson content.

## Success stories

Peer review - last year each of the head teachers identified issues within their own schools that were areas for development and their colleagues in the other schools undertook a review of the practice with the support of an external consultant, Chris Byrne. It was important that while the process needed to be supportive of the school, it was also honest and rigorous, and provided beneficial feedback. This also gave the head teachers the opportunity of comparing practice in different schools.

## The year ahead

We are looking forward to building upon our achievements so far. In our plan for the year, we intend to:

- Continue the series of Peer Reviews of our schools focussing upon areas identified as priorities and now involve members of our Senior Leadership teams, as well as head teachers
- Hold a series of joint staff meetings and training events to support our teachers
- Give teachers the opportunity to visit other schools so they can benefit from observing good practice elsewhere
- Organise ELT events involving music, poetry and sporting competition

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