



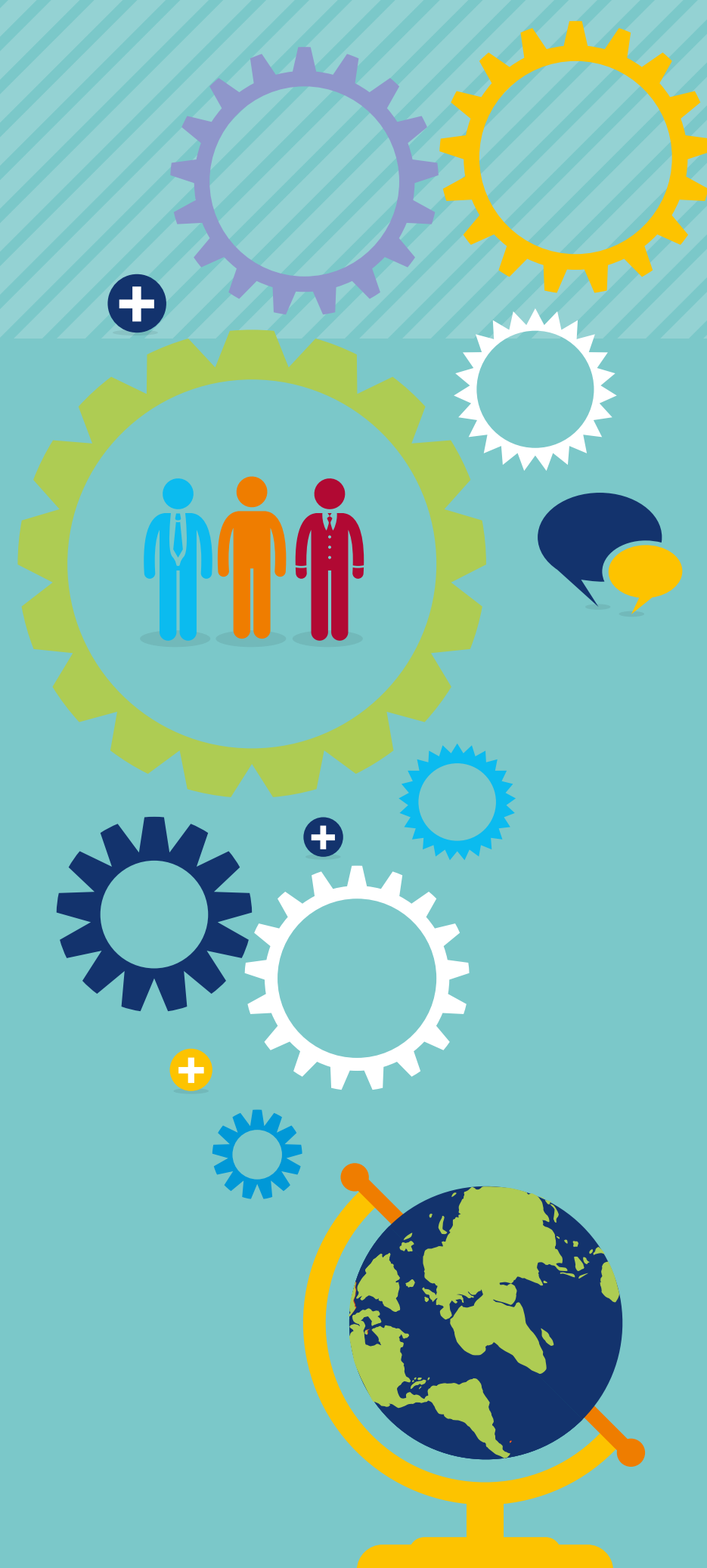
The Co-operative Academies Trust
Annual Report 2015

Our academies, sponsor and partners

The Co-operative Academies Trust is responsible for seven academies in Leeds, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent with The Co-operative Group acting as the sponsor. The sponsorship does not involve providing large amounts of money, but it does offer additional expertise, including governors, and access to the resources within the organisation.

The Co-operative's involvement in education dates back to 1844 when a pioneering group of workers from Rochdale made the decision to

open their customer owned shop in Toad Lane in an effort to provide cheaper and better quality food for ordinary working people who were struggling to pay for essentials. In an effort to raise education standards a reading room was added to the shop with people coming at night to learn by candle light. Soon after, these shops began to spread across the North of England and reading rooms became an important part of the shop.



As a business with clear moral and social values, as well as a history of valuing education, The Co-operative Group has something to offer schools, their children and the communities they serve.

Sponsorship by The Co-operative Group has brought opportunities for governors, staff and students/pupils to access expertise from within the business. These include:

- Providing high quality governors drawn from senior managers in the Group and local co-operative members
- Supporting training for academy prefects
- Community outreach and support initiatives including inspiring talks by senior executives to students
- Mentoring and work experience for over 200 students
- Providing a venue in its £100m support centre in Manchester for staff training, governor development and an annual recognition event
- Reward sessions at the Group's headquarters for students showing an improved attitude to learning.



Preparing for the way ahead

Significant work has taken place to ensure all appropriate processes and policies are consistent across the seven academies.



The improvements achieved by all academies in recent years has continued with all but one now inspected 'good' by Ofsted. The opening of Nightingale Primary Academy, a new-build in central Leeds, strengthens our footprint in the city and confirms our willingness to support diverse communities. Our academies are great places to learn and work.

The trust board undertook a 'root and branch' review of its work in autumn 2014 and, following discussions with local governing bodies and senior leaders, produced a strategic plan outlining the way forward to 2018. The Director of the Trust alongside the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher/Principal spoke to all staff and governors explaining what the strategy will mean for them and how we intend to use it as a way of achieving the best possible outcomes through a co-operative education approach. To support this the trust has developed a Masters' qualification in conjunction with The Co-operative College and Manchester Metropolitan University. The first cohort began their studies in autumn 2015.

The trust has continued to focus on high class school improvement support for its academies. Following the departure of the Deputy Director to Ofsted as HMI in January 2015, the trust appointed School Improvement Managers for both primary and secondary academies. In addition, the trust created a Chief Operating Manager role to ensure that the full benefits from working with the sponsor could be achieved.

Changes to the way Ofsted inspects schools and continuing encouragement from the DfE has seen increasingly more schools contacting our trust with a view to joining. This is very heartening however we know that it is important that we grow in a controlled and sustainable way. With increasing financial pressures unlikely to ease over the next few years it is crucial that our trust carefully considers any increase in academy numbers.

Following a rigorous 'due diligence' process during summer 2015, the trust board agreed to The Manchester Creative and Media Academy joining the trust during early 2016. This academy is close to one of our existing academies and ensures that our trust has a strong presence in the North of the city.

We are determined to show that the far reaching insight of the Rochdale Pioneers back in 1844 has a resonance and a place in the 21st Century. We are demonstrating that adhering to their values and principles can make a real difference and we are keen that our staff and pupils/students become ambassadors as great co-operators as we move forward. They are the 21st Century Co-operative Pioneers.

The Co-operative Academies Trust Achievements 2014-2015

New trust arrangements established with significant rise in number of schools wanting to join

Trust identified in Chain Effects 2015 report as making a 'very strong difference for most disadvantaged pupils'

Trust support and governance identified as strong in all Ofsted inspections

Central trust team strengthened structure to support school improvement and links with The Co-operative Group

Successful inaugural recognition event held at 1 Angel Square

Second annual governor conference focused on trust strategy and better governance

Trust board approved vision statement from 2015-2018

75 activities supported by The Co-operative Group

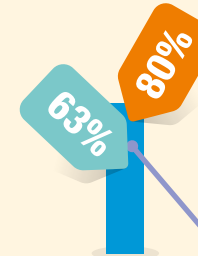
First 'outstanding' Ofsted grade awarded for leadership and management

Director invited to lead an academy support group for the Regional Schools Commissioner



The **co-operative** academy of Stoke-on-Trent

Investors in People Silver Award (July 2015)

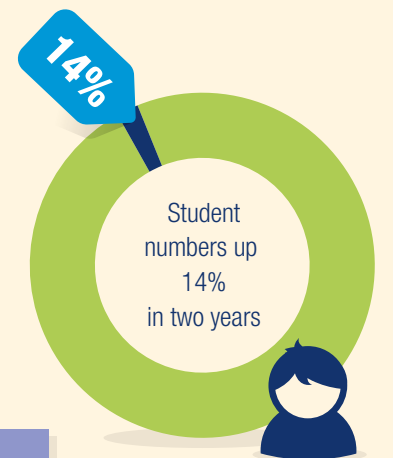


Highest English results ever. 63% A-C and 80% of students making expected progress

Disadvantaged students achieve higher than expected progress in English than similar students nationally



The Student Council achieved a trust recognition award for democracy in February 2015



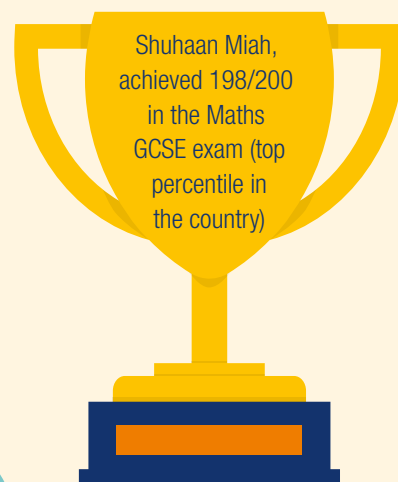
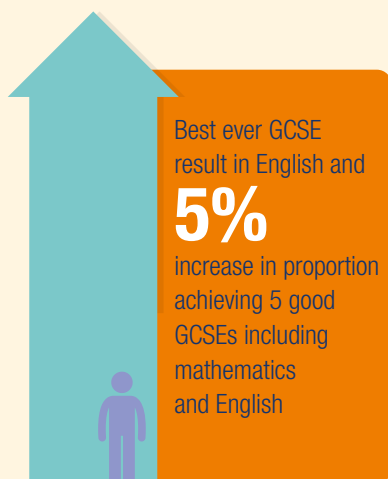
The Edge programme introduced successfully offers character education and enrichment activities to students and professional development for staff





The **co-operative**
academy of Leeds

**Exceed the government's
floor standard for
the first time**



Carlos Borges (Yr 10 student)
selected for the Manchester
City FC Academy football squad



Launch of 'Into University' -
raising students' aspirations



Pupil premium gaps
narrowing across the board



BBC Radio Leeds visits the school
to report on GCSE exam results
and speak to our successful
students throughout the day

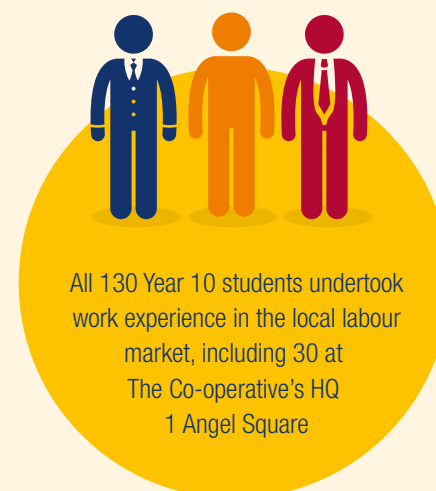


'School of Sanctuary' status achieved

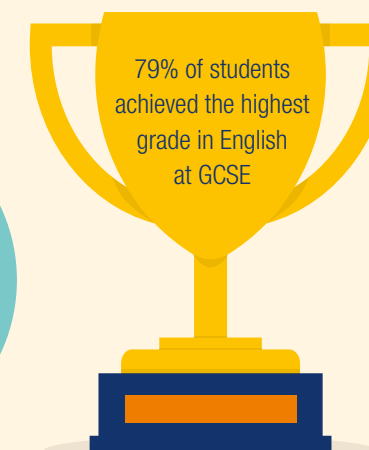


The **co-operative**
academy of Manchester

**Ofsted 'Outstanding' in
terms of Leadership
and Management
and 'Good' overall**



The RHS judged our
gardening club as Outstanding
for a second year following
prestigious show garden
at the Tatton Park Flower Show



A group of students
visited the battlefields of
Flanders to mark the
centenary of WW1



For the first time, students
progressed directly to University
from our Sixth Form



The academy was
oversubscribed
for the first time
in September 2015



Biggest ever cohort of 150
students started with us in
September, showing how the
reputation of The Co-operative
academy of Manchester has
grown within the local community

Students held a
Co-operative Academy of
Manchester General
Election - with its Labour
Party winning by just
a single vote

Sixth formers raised over
£1500 for Teenage
Cancer Trust

Over 97% student
attendance.
In top 50 nationally



Nightingale Primary Academy

Successful opening with all 60 Reception places filled



Well attended Tour de
Nightingale event



Grand Opening event following completion
of Phase 2 of the building by Richard
Pennycook, CEO of The Co-operative Group

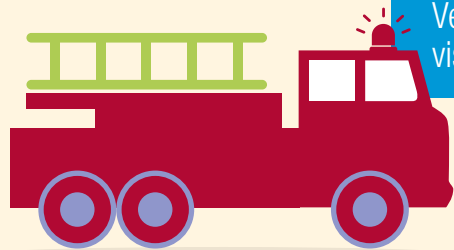
At least 'good'
progress achieved by
Reception children in all
areas of learning



Strong partnership
with Oakwood Primary
Academy established,
including visits from
Oakwood school choir



Parents' Forum
established



Very enjoyable fire safety day -
visit from Diddy Dennis



Governors attending all
events held through the year

Very positive moderation
visit from the Local Authority
for Foundation Stage Profiles

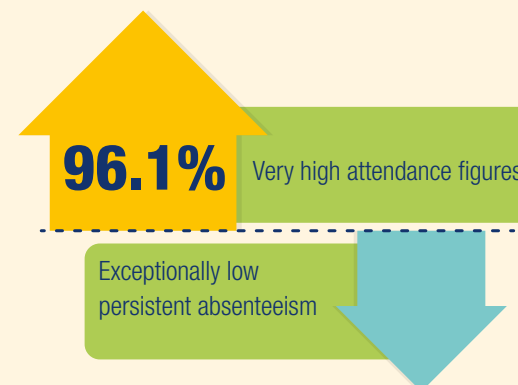


Very well attended
Reception Nativity
performance



Oakwood Primary Academy

**Ofsted 'good'
in June 2015**



Year 1 phonics' screening
test - higher than the
national average

The percentage of
pupils who achieved more than
2 levels of progress in receipt
of Pupil Premium and who have
been at Oakwood all of KS2 was
above national figures



The choir performed at the opening
of Nightingale Primary Academy
and children attended The Co-operative
Recognition awards event



'Be the best you can be'
programme improves pupil attitudes



Received funding from the Connecting
Classrooms grant to support link
with Colegio Americano de Tabasco,
in Mexico



First visit for Oakwood Primary Academy
to the Rochdale Pioneers Museum for
Year 6 and the School Council

New parents' forum led to Road Safety
signs designed by the children and
displayed outside school





**Best ever SATs
results - risen by
20% in 2 years**

20%

Woodlands Primary Academy



**Four pupils who attended
Brownhill since reception
achieved level 6 in their
national tests**

L6

Brownhill Primary Academy



Contact information

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Brownhill Primary Academy

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Leeds LS9 7DH

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Email: secretary@brownhill.coop

Nightingale Primary Academy

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Oakwood Primary Academy

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Woodlands Primary Academy

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Leeds LS9 6DA

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The Co-operative Academies Trust

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Joining in early February 2016

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300 Victoria Avenue East
Blackley
Manchester M9 7SS

Tel: 0161 681 1592

Email: enquiries@mcmacademy.com

In Memoriam

Helen Williams (Oakwood Primary Academy)

Helen was a long serving, deeply loved and respected teacher at Oakwood. Helen is survived by her husband Rob and their two children, Lucy and Josh.