



The Co-operative Academies Trust

Annual Report 2015/16

Our academies, sponsor and partners

The Co-operative Academies Trust is responsible for eight academies in Leeds, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent with the Co-op acting as the sponsor.) The Co-op has always had a commitment to support communities and offers additional expertise, including governors, and access to the resources within the organisation.



The Co-op's involvement in education dates back to 1844 when a pioneering group of workers from Rochdale, known as The Rochdale Pioneers, 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-op has something to offer schools, their children and the communities they serve.

The Co-op's involvement in academies began in 2010 when The Co-operative Academy of Manchester opened followed by The Co-operative Academy of Stoke-on-Trent a year later. In 2014, it created The Co-operative Academies Trust bringing together all of its academies under the leadership of Frank Norris, a former senior HMI with Ofsted. The trust now supports eight academies educating nearly 6000 children and employing nearly 700 staff making the Co-op the largest business sponsor of academies in the country.

Sponsorship by the Co-op 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 business and local Co-op members
- Community outreach and support initiatives including inspiring talks by senior executives to students as well as leadership training for academy prefects
- Mentoring and work experience for over 200 students drawn from all secondary academies
- Direct involvement of Co-op staff in supporting mathematics, digital technology, art and marketing
- Providing an inspiring venue in its £100m support centre in Manchester for staff training, governor development and an annual recognition event
- Reward sessions at the Co-op's Manchester HQ for children showing an improved attitude to learning
- Connects our academies to a global movement with a set of values which provide inspiration for each of our academies

Preparing for the way ahead

The improvements achieved by all academies in recent years have continued with all but one now judged 'good' by Ofsted. More importantly they are great places to learn and work.

“The trust has continued to see high levels of interest from schools and academies across the country”

During summer 2016 the trust board undertook a review of its work and considered changes to its strategic plan. Instead of just trying to grow in our existing city locations the board agreed to be open to considering schools joining our trust that were committed to our values and principles and were within striking distance of our existing academies. They restated their desire for quality over quantity and acknowledged that any growth needed to be steady and well considered.

The trust has continued to see high levels of interest from schools and academies across the country. 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. The trust board agreed that Failsworth School in Oldham should join the trust early in 2017 and further due diligence work is underway for secondary and primary schools in the north of England.

During the past year all of our academies have either seen significant increases in pupil/student numbers or are already full. Nightingale Primary Academy in East Leeds has seen significant growth in pupil numbers as the trust plays its part to the full in trying to ensure all children have a school place in the city. Plans are in place for further expansion at The Co-operative Academy

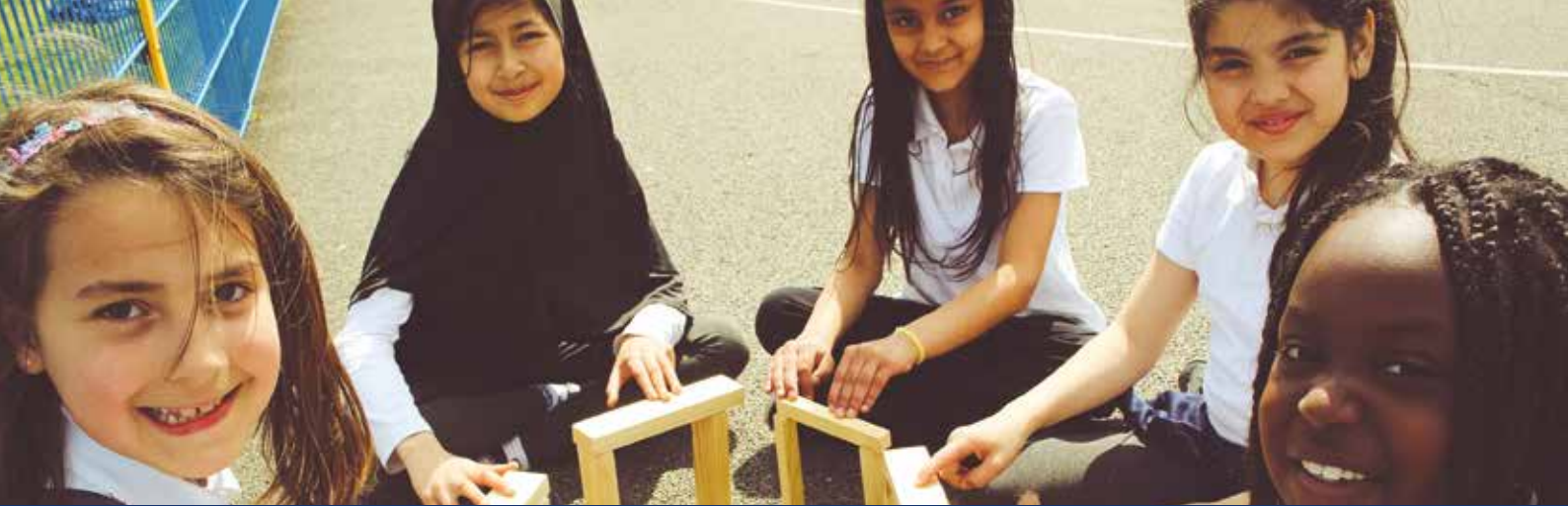
of Manchester, The Co-operative Academy of Leeds and Oakwood Primary Academy in Leeds.

All secondary academies achieved their best ever GCSE results in 2016. A remarkable achievement bearing in mind the significant changes in examination requirements including increased challenge for students. This continues a trend of improvement over the past three years and is captured once again by the Sutton Trust in their annual report 'Chain Effects 2016'. The performance of disadvantaged students in our academies is very strong and compares very favourably against all other large academy chains. All of our primary academies maintained their previous improvements and achieved creditable outcomes against a national fall of close to 30% nationally.

Our academies are an important community resource and as such always do all they can to meet local requirements. 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 co-operative 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 Pioneers and we are proud of their efforts and achievements.

“More and more schools and academies are looking to join our trust. This is due to way we work with our existing academies, the great progress they have made and the strong pull of the cooperative values and principles”





Brownhill Primary Academy

“Brownhill has gone from strength to strength in 2015-16. New thinking around teaching and learning, and assessment and feedback, has been guided by research and collaboration with others.

This has resulted in a clearer understanding of personalised learning which will ensure pupil outcomes continue to improve in 2016-17 and beyond.”

Georgina Winterburn - Executive Headteacher



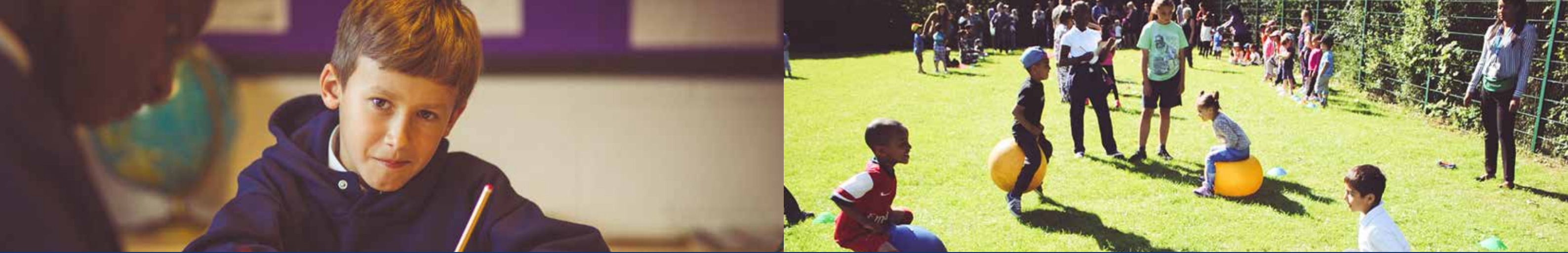
Nightingale Primary Academy

“Last year was important in-terms of academy growth. We grew so much more quickly than expected. The academy moved into the second phase of the new building and the children really enjoyed all the new equipment, particularly the playground games and markings. We ended last year with 60 pupils and by July of 2016 we had 165 pupils – we will be full before you know it!”

Rebecca Ingram - Executive Headteacher

Development	Attainment	The 3 R's	SAT Results	Gymnastics
				
Good level of development at the end of reception has increased to 44%.	43% of pupils with low prior attainment in maths reached the much more challenging expected standard at the end of Year 6.	Y6 data shows positive progress scores in reading, writing and maths and easily exceeded the government's floor standard.	All prior higher attainers achieved a high standard in the much more challenging reading SAT at the end of Year 6.	Brownhill's gymnastics team received a Bronze Medal in the Leeds School's Gymnastics Competition.
Parents feedback	Staff survey	Residential visits	International week	PE Success
				
96% of parents say their child is happy at Brownhill Co-operative Academy.	92% of staff say they are proud to work at Brownhill Co-operative Academy.	Children from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in residential visits that provided opportunities for developing teamwork and self-responsibility and to achieve new things outside the classroom.	Using the Rio Olympics as a stimulus the whole school took part in International Week and increased their understanding of other cultures and the wider world.	Effective use of the Sports Premium has significantly increased participation and provided pupils with wider opportunities in a range of PE and sport related activities.

Year 2 progress	Reception	Phonic achievements	Year 2 moderation	Closing the Gap
				
Progress of Year 2 children who had never been in the English school system before, averaged 2 years progress in 6 months.	Reception children - significantly closing the gap for 50% of our children who began the year below age related expectations finished achieving the expected level - great progress.	A very small number of the cohort who began with us at the start of Reception were at the expected level. In 2016 almost two-thirds of those pupils achieved close to the national average in the phonics check. This is great progress.	Very positive external Year 2 moderation, which highlighted quality and breadth of curriculum.	Progress of particularly vulnerable pupils, as a result of targeted provision resulted in them significantly closing the gap with all other children.
Parental engagement	Attendance	Pioneers award	Wellbeing	Community/Charity
				
High level of parental engagement throughout the year, including a growing parents' forum, large turnouts for workshops offered and 89% attendance at parents' evening.	Significantly improved attendance for targeted pupils as a result of sustained work with families, wider services and the close partnership with Oakwood family support team.	Receiving the Pioneers' Award at the Co-operative Academies Trust Recognition Event.	Continuing to successfully keep children's progress and families' wellbeing at the heart of the school's practice despite the rapid growth through this year, taking on an additional class and a half, with the resulting rapid growth in staff members.	Community and charity involvement, from Project Paddington supporting Refugee children to the Christmas appeal for St James' Hospital and children in need etc. Nightingale staff and families have shown their real commitment to the Co op values.



Oakwood Primary Academy

“Oakwood has had another fantastic year. We were so proud to be nominated as International School of the Year in the TES Awards. Our Foundation Stage continues to be a centre of excellence. Children at Oakwood have enjoyed so many enhanced activities to support their learning. The highlights were; the residential to Robinwood, Year 5 performing Shakespeare at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and trips to Ilkley, Skelton Grange, Temple Newsam and many more.”

Rebecca Ingram - Executive Headteacher



Woodlands Primary Academy

“2015-16 has seen many changes for Woodlands both in terms of personnel and in our approaches to providing the best education for our pupils. After a successful strategy day we introduced our new mission statement and identified three key words that explain what we are about:

RESPECT, CO-OPERATE, SUCCEED

We are excited to build on this in 2016-17 and will work co-operatively to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils.”

Georgina Winterburn – Executive Headteacher

Attendance	Mathematics	Foundation stage	Phonics	Language progress
Attendance continues to be a strength of Oakwood and has remained stable at 96% .	Children at Oakwood have made better progress in Maths than children nationally.	Children make excellent progress in the Foundation Stage ; making more than 18 months progress in the year.	90% of our Year 2 children are working at the expected level in phonics.	Pupils with English as a Second Language are making better than expected progress. In Year 6 these pupils made an average of 16 months progress.
Early Years Foundation	International education	External experiences	Specialist support	Parental engagement
The Oakwood Early Years Foundation continues to be a hub of excellent practice with 90 practitioners attending an open door professional development event.	Our commitment to international education: Intermediate level and full accreditation of the International School Award and shortlisted for the TES International School of the year .	We offer our pupils a broad range of learning experiences , in and outside of the classroom. Year 5 performance of Richard III at West Yorkshire Playhouse, working in Partnership with the Players Company, our children took to the main stage, performing to a full house.	We have valued specialists joining us at Oakwood for the benefit of staff and pupils. Massive Maths was a brilliant initiative that brought staff from the Co-op group to deliver fun and educational outdoor maths activities to a number of classes across the school.	We continue to develop the ways we can involve our parents. Christmas performances, diversity week, performance poetry, festival of learning, international coffee event for our Mexican teachers, saw an increased number of parents attending .

Listening & attention	Phonics screening test	Mathematics	The 3 R's	Early Years Foundation
87% of disadvantaged reception children reached or exceeded the expected standard in listening and attention.	75% of Year 2 pupils have now passed the phonics screening test.	10% of Year 6 pupils achieved the higher standard in mathematics all of whom spoke English as an Additional Language	End of Key Stage 2 data shows that the floor standards progress measure for reading, writing and mathematics have been exceeded .	Early Years Foundation Stage assessment procedures were positively validated by an external local authority moderator.
Co-operative Academy	Parental	Investments	Activities/experiences	Further education
94% of our staff team say they are proud to work at Woodlands Co-operative Academy.	96% of parents say they are proud that their child attends Woodlands and of the academy's achievements.	Full refurbishment of all classrooms and teaching areas was completed August 2016 providing a vibrant and welcoming learning environment for all.	30 Year 6 pupils took part in a 3 day residential in Walesby Forest which provided a range of exciting activities and experiences that enabled them to work as a team and to develop self-responsibility.	Year 6 children completed their project with Into-University by 'graduating' from Leeds University with an increased understanding of further education and the world of work and, greater aspirations for their futures.



“I’m delighted that all of our secondary academies achieved their best ever results”

“Having Richard Pennycook, the CEO of The Co-op, draw on his visit to our secondary academy in Leeds during his speech at the Co-op’s AGM proved how important our academies are to him and to the business”



The **co-operative**
academy of Leeds

“2015-16 saw a number of significant improvements at CAL, with the summer’s headline figures beating previous bests almost across the board.”

The Academy is on the threshold of significant change, with plans emerging to expand into our neighbouring primary school, offering up to 240 places for the local community. This is a show of confidence in the Academy’s ability to press forward with improvements to every aspect of our provision, and we are committed to making sure the students and the community benefit from the additional enrichment opportunities this development can bring.

Jonny Mitchell - Principal











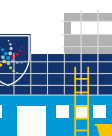

The **co-operative**
academy of Manchester

“2015-16 has been a fantastic year for The Co-operative Academy of Manchester and staff and students have had a lot to celebrate throughout the academy and in the exam results which have come in this summer.”

The academy is poised on the cusp of a very exciting period of expansion and development, and much of last year was spent working up the detail on our forthcoming building project. This will allow the academy to accommodate an increasing number of students. This year the academy is heavily over-subscribed in year 7 with over 100 students on the waiting list.

Steve Brice - Principal

Examination performance	Progress	Individual Performance	Academic Excellence	Examination performance
 <p>Above national progress for English language.</p>	 <p>Progress 8 figure, based on 2015 methodology, currently standing at +0.09</p>	 <p>Aiman Zaidi achieved 15 GCSEs, including 12 at A* and 2 at A – a phenomenal achievement from a phenomenal student.</p>	 <p>Significant increase in the number of A* grades across the whole cohort.</p>	 <p>Better performance across all measures from a statistically weaker cohort.</p>
Sixth Form Success	Management	Students and experience	Work Experience	Students and experience
 <p>A-level and Level 3 points per entry significantly above the projected national figure again.</p>	 <p>Very positive FORETEL outcomes, indicating good staff, student and parent engagement, and high levels of satisfaction with the way the Academy is led and managed.</p>	 <p>Leeds Education Partnership Careers and Enterprise audit found no areas for improvement in the Academy’s provision and identified CAL as a beacon of best practice in many areas.</p>	 <p>Successful work experience for KS4 and KS5 students at the Co-op’s Headquarters in Manchester.</p>	 <p>6th form students gaining volunteer experience within Co-op stores throughout the local area.</p>

National Accreditation	Attendance	Fantastic exam results	Centre of excellence	Brand new co-operative family system
 <p>IAG Gold award and eSafety Award achieved.</p>	 <p>Top 1% of all schools nationally for attendance for the second year running.</p>	 <p>English and Maths both above national, significantly strong progress measures and En+Ma attainment up by 10% on 2015.</p>	 <p>English seen as centre of excellence - asked to deliver training by Ofsted for the second year running.</p>	 <p>Introduction of new pastoral system based around international inspirational co-operative role models.</p>
Outstanding teaching and learning development	CAM students at the Co-op	Sell out successes	Planning for growth	Closing the gaps
 <p>Regular 'Moving Towards Outstanding' sessions significantly raise quality of teaching.</p>	 <p>CAM students took part in global satellite link-up from 1 Angel Square. Over 30 CAM students completed exceptionally high quality work placements across a wide range of areas within the group.</p>	 <p>Two superb productions of Hairspray The Musical and Blood Brother played to sold-out houses.</p>	 <p>£18.3 million building project approved and underway to add exciting new facilities to the academy.</p>	 <p>Pupil premium gaps closing significantly with PP students outperforming other students in some key progress measures.</p>



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

“The last academic year has seen the Academy go from strength to strength. The Academy improved its GCSE results on every indicator. Our continuing commitment to our reconstituted vision of empowering everyone to reach their potential and ‘be the best’ was recognised when we won the prestigious DfE Character Award. Our great work has been recognised by the community and our student numbers in Year 7 have gone up by 33%. We continue to strive to give more of our students the support and challenge they need to be the best.”

Nick Lowry - Principal



2015-16 has been a historic year for the academy. Substantial improvements were secured in all areas of academy life and we also joined The Co-operative Academies Trust.

Our vision is one of excellence in all areas of academy life and we want our children to go on to lead ‘happy and successful lives.’ 2015-16 has seen this vision in action through not only success in the classroom, but success beyond, through our diverse extra-curricular offer. During this year our external partnerships have also grown, resulting in us being actively involved in training the teachers of tomorrow whilst also being recognised for our commitment to the professional development of our dedicated staff. We have worked closely with our new sponsors The Co-op, which has opened up a fantastic range of opportunities for staff and students.

Our substantial improvements across all areas have also resulted in the academy being asked to significantly increase its pupil numbers, ensuring that even more pupils can be part of our great school for 2016 and beyond.

Rebecca Smith - Principal

Regional Winners	Achieving	Student numbers	Record attainment	Attendance
				
Department for Education's Character Award 2016.	The Online Safety Quality Mark.	September 2016 Year 7 student numbers up 33% on last year.	In English and maths.	Above national average for the first time in the Academy's history.
English Results	Silver Sustrans Award	Young Engineer of the Year	Oxford acceptance	Grades
				
83% 3 levels of progress and 43% 4 levels of progress.	For cycling and sustainable transportation.	Launching a capsule into space as part of the Young Engineer of the Year Competition.	3 Year 10 students being accepted for the prestigious Oxford University summer programme.	Number of A/A* grades doubled.

Maths achievements	English language/literature	Results	Democracy Recognition Award	FairAchiever Award
				
63% of students achieved A*-C in Maths with almost a fifth of all grades at A*/A grade.	Over 70% of students achieved at least expected progress in English Language/ Literature GCSE.	Best ever results for the second year running and the most improved school in the city from 2014-16!	The Academy achieved a democracy recognition award for its commitment to this area and were invited to The Houses of Parliament to receive this.	The Academy achieved the FairAchiever award - the highest recognition - for its work in this area.
Cup winners	Romeo and Juliet	Student council	Partnerships	Anti-bullying and the EU
				
The Year 8 football team won the double , winning both The Manchester Cup and The Manchester League for their year group.	The Academy performed Romeo and Juliet as part of the Shakespeare in Schools festival and achieved outstanding feedback.	The work of the academy's student council enabled them to gain a highly commended award from The House of Commons Speaker's Award.	The Academy's partnership with The Manchester United foundation was officially opened by a visit from Sir Bobby Charlton where pupils' outstanding talent in sport and the arts was showcased.	Pupils were invited to share their views on Newsround about anti-bullying and the EU.

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In Memoriam

Andy Carr

(Manchester Creative and Media Academy)

A much loved and respected member of staff.

The Co-operative Academies Trust

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