
**DARTMOOR MAT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Michelmores 

BACKGROUND

This document is to set out the Dartmoor MAT's (the MAT) position in respect of the MAT's commitments to have regard to co-operative principles and values as follows:

1 THE PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.
- 1.2 In making any operational or strategic decisions in relation to Cooperative schools, the MAT commits to always have regard to these principles and shall seek to implement the spirit of these principles and maintain the co-operative identity of the College.

- Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination. Co-operative schools do not select students, and are open to their whole community.

- Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner. Co-operative schools promote democratic participation groups made up of parent, student and staff constituencies.

- Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a conditional membership. Members allocate surpluses for any of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

- Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy. As a co-operative school we encourage representation and/or contribution from all constituencies.

- Education Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion

leaders – about the nature and benefits of co-operation. This is why we have adapted the Values of Modern Britain to include the Co-operative Values in our curriculum. It also explains the larger than average investment in professional development programmes that is indicative of a co-operative school.

- Co-operation Among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

- Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members. Success, in part, for a co-operative school is measured by the engagement and confidence the school enjoys in its community.

2 THE VALUES

2.1 Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

This Memorandum of Understanding was adopted on:

Signed for and on behalf of the MAT by

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Chair of Trustees

Signed for and on behalf of the College by

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Chair of Governors