**Crowmoor is proud to be a**

**Co-operative School**

**We are proud to be a co-operative school and seek to explore and uphold the ten most important values of the co-operative movement in our daily learning activities at school.These values helped us to become the first School in Shropshire to gain the United Nation’s Gold Right’s Respecting School Award.**

**We believe that the interests of our pupils and our local community are best served by our remaining a state maintained school, with a guiding set of principles; accountable to the local population and governed by an elected governing body made up of members of the wider school and local community.**

**CO-OPERATIVE TRUST SCHOOLS**

**The Co-operative Foundation Trust model was developed in 2008 as opportunities arose for schools to develop more autonomy with their governance and partnership arrangements. As with all co-operative school models, Foundations Trusts retain an element of democratic accountability which roots them in their communities.**

**Essentially a Foundation Trust School is a maintained school supported by a charitable foundation (often called the Trust). The Trust appoints some of the governors in most models, but schools maintain both links to the Local Authority and local autonomy. By involving partners in the Trust, the aim is to use their experience and expertise to strengthen the leadership and governance and hence to help raise standards.**

**"In the end it’s quite simple; it’s about changing the world for the better" Learner Member at a Co-operative School**

**Self-help**

**Self-responsibility**

**Democracy**

**Equality**

**Equity**

**Solidarity**

**Honesty**

**Openness**

**Social Responsibility**

**Caring for Others**

**Despite being in existence in other countries for many years, by the turn of the millennium, very few schools in the UK were directly using Co-operative Values and Principles as part of their education offering. Building upon an early model of Business and Enterprise Colleges, in 2007 a small group of head teachers and education professionals began to work with the Co-operative College to investigate ways in which co-operative ideals could be built into school governance. This led to the creation of the Co-operative Foundation Trust Model which is utilised by hundreds of schools today.**

**Although many similar models are available, Co-operative Foundation Trusts adopt a co-operative model for their structures and governance involving:-**

**Acquiring a foundation – the land and assets of the school transfer from the local authority to a locally-run charitable trust.**

**Adopting Co-operative Values and Principles**

**Ensuring that the key stakeholders such as parents, staff, learners and members of the local community have a guaranteed ‘say’ in the affairs of the organisation.**

**Schools retain their independence but gain advantages from working as part of a wider cluster.**

**Some of the regional networks and national partners such as the Co-operative College can offer directly or sign-post to professional services to support schools like ours, such as;**

* **Education support and challenge**
* **Foundation Trust conversion advice and project management**
* **HR and Payroll**
* **Co-operative governance training**
* **Central purchasing and procurement**