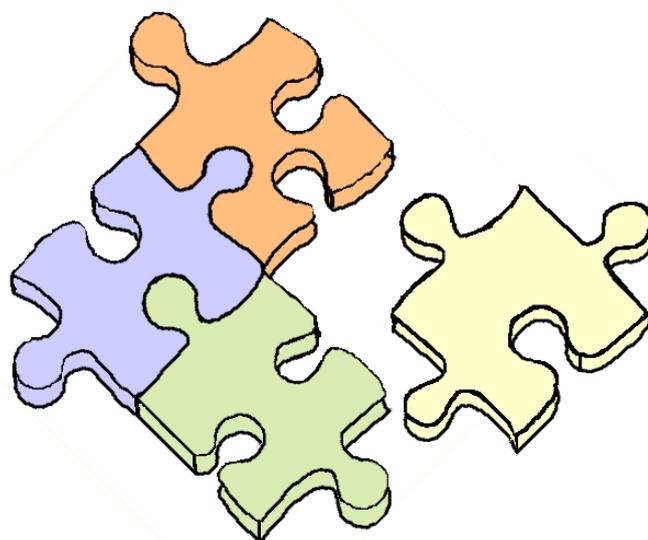




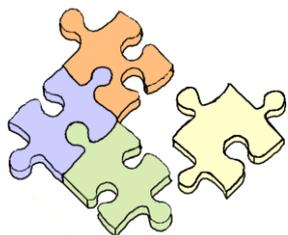
Sir Thomas Boughey

A Co-operative School



Membership





Membership

Sir Thomas Boughey is a locally owned Co-operative. This means that we are not part of any other Co-operative but simply a school that runs itself as a co-operative. As such we are part of a national family of over 5000 other co-operatively run concerns in the UK alone.

We were one of the first co-op schools in the UK – soon there will be a national network of nearly 100 co-op schools – all independent but sharing the same values and principles.

Co-operatives across the world have over 800 million members, almost the size of Europe. Although Co-op schools are relatively new to the UK they are found in many other countries.





Membership

What is a Co-operative?

It is simply an alternative way to run a business.

Does a Co-operative have shares and shareholders?

Yes. Co-operative shares are of fixed value (in our case £1) and cannot be traded. Shareholders are usually called members.

How are Co-op shares different?

They work in a different way to PLC type shares. The member only has one vote regardless of how many shares s/he has. People normally buy one share but can buy as many as they want.

What happens if a member wants to leave the co-operative?

They receive back their shares.

If we are member of this co-op are we automatically a member of another co-op?

No. Each co-operative is independent.

As well as being part of running the co-operative and the life of the school are there other benefits?

We are planning a range of these. At the moment we have agreements with two other co-operatives - Co-op Electrical and the Phone Co-op. They are planning benefits for our members.





Membership

Who can become members (shareholders)?

We have 5 categories of membership. These are staff, pupils at the school, parents, members of the community and wider community groups. Each member is equal. Each parent can become a member as well as their children if they attend our school.

What happens if someone wants to change category?

This can happen if a child leaves the school, for example, but the parent wants to stay involved. In this case the member can apply to become a community member instead of a parent member.

How does voting work?

Each member has one vote. They elect a co-operative board and in turn the board elects trustees for our co-operative.

How do I find our more about the STB co-operative?

Information is being developed and will be soon available through our website www.co-operative.stb.coop

How do I become a member?

Send this slip to the Membership Officer, Sir Thomas Boughey, Station Road, Hamer End, Stoke ST7 8AP

I am interested in becoming a member. Please send me an application pack.

Your Address _____

Contact telephone number _____

