



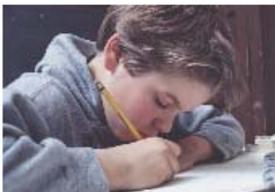
# Co-operative Schools

Values and Principles



**NASUWT**  
The Teachers' Union

The Schools  
Co-operative Society



*“Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.”*

**Ban Ki-moon**

United Nations Secretary-General

In 2012, the Schools Co-operative Society (SCS) and the NASUWT entered into a landmark agreement to promote co-operative solutions for schools. This leaflet explains what that agreement is about.

## **About us**

The SCS is the apex body of the educational co-operative sector set up to co-ordinate, support and give a voice to the hundreds of co-operative trusts and co-operative academies across the UK. The SCS is a co-operative, owned and democratically run by its members.

The NASUWT is the largest union representing teachers and school leaders throughout the UK.

## **Co-operative solutions are good for schools**

The starting point for promoting co-operative solutions for schools is that co-operative approaches have a strong record of delivering successful outcomes for children and young people.

Co-operatives give individuals participation through ownership. Co-operatives create greater economic, social and environmental sustainability.

The SCS and the NASUWT are committed to working together to ensure that schools serve the best interests of children and young people, parents and carers, the workforce and the wider community.

## **What co-operative schools stand for**

Co-operative schools put the community and needs of the stakeholders at the centre of the educational process.

The ethos of co-operative schools is based on the following co-operative values and principles.

Co-operative values	Co-operative principles
<p>self-help</p> <p>self-responsibility</p> <p>democracy</p> <p>equality</p> <p>equity</p> <p>solidarity</p> <p>In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="460 193 994 336"> <p><b>1. Voluntary and Open Membership</b> Co-operatives are voluntary membership organisations, open to all persons, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 352 994 496"> <p><b>2. Democratic Member Control</b> Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 512 994 624"> <p><b>3. Member Economic Participation</b> Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 639 994 903"> <p><b>4. Autonomy and Independence</b> Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 919 994 1150"> <p><b>5. Education, Training and Information</b> 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.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 1166 994 1310"> <p><b>6. Co-operation among Co-operatives</b> Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="460 1326 994 1437"> <p><b>7. Concern for Community</b> Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.</p> </li> </ol>

*(For more information, go to the International Co-operative Alliance website at <http://2012.coop/en/welcome>.)*

## **Our commitment**

The SCS and the NASUWT have a shared commitment to education as a democratically accountable public service which operates in the public interest.

We believe that high-quality, fully funded state education is at the heart of a democratic and inclusive society.

Schools are essential public services. The SCS and the NASUWT believe that publicly funded schools should be democratically accountable, operate in the public interest, advance equality and social cohesion, and be managed and delivered in trust to the public.

Our belief is that schools, as public services, should provide universal access, education according to need, services free at the point of use, and services delivered for the public good and not for private profit.

The SCS and the NASUWT are committed to working together with schools to promote:

- (i) access to all applicable national entitlements for the workforce in schools;
- (ii) full and appropriate engagement, consultation and negotiation with the NASUWT;
- (iii) union recognition; and
- (iv) membership and engagement in the SCS and the NASUWT.

The SCS and the NASUWT are working together to promote to SCS members solutions which facilitate democratic engagement and trade union representation.

**To find out more about the joint agreement between the SCS and the NASUWT, go to:**

**[www.nasuwat.org.uk/cooperatives](http://www.nasuwat.org.uk/cooperatives)**