

CHADDESLEY CORBETT "ENDOWED" PRIMARY SCHOOL

Some people have been asking why our village school has the word "endowed" in its official title. If you look up the word in a dictionary you will find it means "blessed with money, supplied, furnished, or enriched". That is the case with our school – but it is **not** a fee-paying private school; it's a state school, open to everyone.

The body 'doing the endowing' is the Chaddesley Corbett Educational Foundation – a local charitable trust. Each year the Trust makes grants to the school of about £38,500 to 'top up' the school's budget and to help with the costs of maintaining the buildings. This is on top of the money that the school receives from the government just like other state schools. So our school is lucky that it is able to offer things to our pupils that it would not be able to do if it was a 'normal' primary school (which are known as "maintained" schools – because they are 'maintained' by the County Council). The Trust receives its income from land and buildings it owns in the local area and from investments on the financial markets.

In 'maintained' schools the land and buildings are owned by the County Council. But an endowed school's land and buildings are owned by the sponsoring trust (for example, Church Schools' land and buildings are owned by the church). This too has advantages for our village school.

Up until 2008 the village school was a "First School" – taking pupils up to Year 4 and a capacity for 168 pupils. The County Council decided it should become a primary school with up to 210 pupils, but there was not room on the existing school site in the village next to the church. So it was decided to build a new school on the edge of the village.

The design and budget for building new schools is normally set and managed by the County Council and the government – at the time £2,900,000. But as an endowed school the Trust was able to add to that – by buying the land needed and adding an extra £600,000 into the pot. The Trustees and School Governors (led by local residents Andrew Page and Colin Emeny) were also in charge of the design of the school and building it. It was built by a construction company whose managing director lives in the village (Barry Adams – and we are sure that he gave us a 'special deal'!). That is why we have classrooms that are a bit bigger than 'standard', the hall is bigger and higher, we have a D&T, music, break-out and changing rooms, and our outside space is much, much bigger than normal.

The nursery, which on the old site operated in a wooden hut run by a separate local charity, was brought under the control of the school and it too had purpose built new accommodation. A few years ago, the County Council wanted to expand nursery provision to take younger children. The Trust committed an

extra £60,000 and as a result was able to get a government grant of £180,000 to build more new buildings.

As a result, our buildings and outdoor space are amongst the best in the county – if not the country.

As an endowed school, the Trust appoints the majority of the school's governing body (the Foundation Governors). It makes these appointments in close consultation with the Chair of Governors to try to ensure that the governing body of the school has a good mix of skills and experience. In the past we have appointed parents who 'came second' in parent governor elections where that person had talents and commitment the school was keen to have. But once appointed, Foundation Governors are as independent as any other governor – the Trust cannot tell them how to vote on any particular issue.

The eleven trustees who run the Chaddesley Corbett Educational Foundation are all local residents, many of whom are former pupils of the school or who have had children educated in the school. They have varied professional expertise or experience – law, property management, financial investment, teaching, music, community leadership, agriculture and parenting. They all give up their time willingly and are committed to the future success of the school and see themselves as equal partners with the pupils, teachers and parents in the wider school community. The three immediate past chairs of the school's governing body are currently trustees.

As well as supporting the school, the Trust is also able to make grants to individuals under the age of 25 who live in the ancient parish of Chaddesley Corbett to help with their education, trade or calling. At the moment young people at university or college who apply receive maintenance grants of £500 a year or have help with their travel expenses. Grants have also been made to support children and young people who are talented in dance, music and drama.

The Trust is a registered charity. You can find out more details on the Charity Commission's website at <https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0®id=527436> .