

Final Statement to Governors and Press

Nursery to close at East Tilbury Primary School

The nursery at East Tilbury Primary School will close in July and will not reopen in September 2015.

St Clare's Co-operative Academy Trust and East Tilbury Primary School and Nursery have very reluctantly been forced to take the decision to close the school nursery located on its site in Princess Margaret Road.

The nursery at East Tilbury School has been a popular and highly regarded destination for parents who wish to place their children in a school setting rather than a private day nursery. However, circumstances beyond the control of the school make it impossible for us to continue running a school nursery without potentially facing legal action from Little Angels Day Nursery.

The school is continuing to seek a resolution that will allow the school nursery to continue, but the school feel it is essential to inform parents that they will not be able to offer places in September 2015.

Head Teacher Louise Coates joined the school in September 2013, and feels disempowered, angry and frustrated that the school is having to suspend the nursery. "I was recruited to the school to raise standards in the whole school, including the nursery. It is tragic that parents who want to send their children to our school nursery are being denied that opportunity because of a technicality in the lease that we were not responsible for."

Paul Griffiths, CEO of St Clare's Co-operative Academy Trust went on to say "We have inherited a lease from the Local Authority, which prevents the school from admitting pupils until they are four years' old. It is therefore with deep regret we are no longer able to offer nursery provision at the school from September 2015."

End

For further information contact: P Griffiths CEO, via email p.griffiths@stcleres.coop

Background:

- East Tilbury Primary School and Nursery is part of the St Clare's Co-operative Academy Trust.
- The school became a foundation school in 2011 and therefore became the landlord of the property.
- East Tilbury Infant School subsequently converted to an Academy and joined St Clare's Co-operative Academy Trust in April 2012.
- East Tilbury Infant School and East Tilbury Junior School amalgamated to form East Tilbury Primary School and Nursery in September 2014.
- The Local Authority and Little Angels Day Nursery entered into the lease in September 2008.
- The infant school was not a signatory to the lease or part of the consultation process.
- During August 2014 St Clare's Co-operative Academy Trust fully engaged in negotiations with Little Angels Day Nursery, to agree **not** to increase its intake into the school nursery. The owners of Little Angels Day Nursery wished the lease to be enforced in full from September 2014.