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for Education

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16<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

**Storey's Field Primary School – the University of Cambridge Training School**

Thank you for your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> June and for the application for a free school under the University Training School initiative. Following the interview on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, we have discussed the proposal with Ministers and I am very pleased to say that it has been approved to the pre-opening phase, subject to the conditions set out below being met to our satisfaction.

- That the Trust revises its admissions policy to ensure a broader pupil intake which represents a wider demographic;
- That the University agrees to build engagement with the School Direct initiative through the UTS and its partner schools;
- That the University commits to make available sufficient funds to ensure there is no deficit balance in the budget, in the future event of under recruitment of pupils or lower generation of external income than expected; and
- That the Trust appoints additional members with prior business experience.

In terms of capital funding, the Department remains willing to top up funding provided by the University to establish the new school as a 3 form entry school. However, our contribution will be limited to the uplift from 2.3 to 3 form entry. We consider the capital costs for the 2.3 form entry school to be the obligation of the University. If there is uncertainty about the completion of future phases of the North West Cambridge development, we would consider it appropriate for the University to bear this risk; not the Department. We would therefore ask that you revise your capital costs, on this basis, and resubmit your capital contribution request accordingly.

We would also ask you to reconsider the additional UTS space required (400m<sup>2</sup>) and the extent to which it is strictly necessary for the successful running of the institution. We would be happy to have a separate discussion on this and provide specific details of our concerns, as required.

In terms of revenue funding, the Department will fund the UTS as a Teaching School - on the condition that the Trust works with other schools to develop all six areas of the Teaching School remit; and that the designation remains under review until the UTS has developed the required track record for designation. Please note that funding for Teaching Schools is currently under review so we will come back to you with specific details on levels of funding, in due course.

In addition, we would be willing to provide a post-opening grant (capability grant) to support the school as it builds to capacity. This would be no more than £283, 000 which is the maximum amount available to primary free schools. The exact amount would be calculated on the basis of missing pupils, at the time of opening.

Please note that entry into the pre-opening stage of the process is an important step but should not be taken as final approval or confirmation that we have agreed all aspects of your application. There will be a number of activities which need to be completed from now, including finalising admissions arrangements; adopting suitable governance arrangements; recruiting suitable staff and governors; finalising education plans; and agreeing financial plans before final approval to open the school can be given. We would advise you to devise a project plan for how you will complete the delivery of these tasks to ensure that your school opens on time. You should also refer to the pre-opening guidance on the Department's website for more information.

You will be paid a project development grant of £220, 000 to cover costs in the run up to the opening of your school. It is public money and you must be able to account for having spent it properly, as well as seeking the best value for money at all times.

I would like to suggest that we meet to go over the conditions (and the specific requirements to meet them) and to discuss the pre-opening period, in more depth. I would be grateful if you, and colleagues, could let me know when you will be available to meet in September.

Please also note that we intend to announce publicly the progression to pre-opening phase of this proposal (as we do for all free schools) but the exact timings of this announcement have yet to be agreed. We would be grateful if you could please delay any public statements, from your side, until this has been decided. We can discuss this, in further detail, when we meet.

Thank you once again for the hard work that went into your application and I look forward to working with you on the next stage of this project.

Yours sincerely,



Free Schools Group  
Department for Education