



Brayford & Umberleigh Federation



19th December 2013

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that the Governors of Brayford and Umberleigh Federation and Exmoor Link Federation are beginning to work together within a Management Partnership. The Governors are now considering making this arrangement permanent by forming a single federation. As you may be aware, a federation model consists of a single governing body but with each school retaining its own unique identity, individual Ofsted inspections and pupil performance targets. The current admissions processes will remain the same with the admitting authority continuing to be Devon.

Whilst the current governing bodies would cease to exist, representatives of each school would be retained. We believe that formalising this partnership is an opportunity to move forward in a collaborative and mutually supportive way. The federation will be tailored to the needs of our schools and communities to provide the best experience for all children in both schools.

What would the benefits be?

Federation (and this specific proposed partnership) has many benefits including but not limited to the following:

- Maintaining and safeguarding the future of all schools within the federation (through securing long term financial viability).
- Securing a strong leadership structure across all schools within the federation.
- Sharing curriculum expertise and the best practice from across the federation (strengthening teaching and learning and pupil progress further).
- Increasing socialisation through a wider community which boosts confidence, social skills, life skills and transition to secondary school.
- A greater range of shared experiences and opportunities such as residentials, trips, visitors and sporting opportunities.
- Strong staff teams across the federation sharing ideas, good practice and planning, as well as activities such as moderation of children's work.

How would this work?

The governing bodies are proposing that the Federation would start on 31st March 2014. As with the Management Partnership, Tim Gurney would be the Executive Headteacher overseeing all schools. As part of the future management structure, each school would have a Head of Teaching and Learning.

The federation would have one governing body composed of representatives from each school community.

The membership of this single governing body includes representation for parents and staff, co-opted governors and a local authority governor. Together this group of people would take overall responsibility for both schools within the federation.

In line with the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012, the proposed size of our federated governing body would be 20, this would include:

- 4 Parent governors (1 elected at each school)
- 2 Staff governors (including the Executive Headteacher)
- 1 Local Authority appointed governor
- 13 Co-opted governors

There is a Federation consultation process

The Governors of both federations have set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the community, the local authority and other key partners. The consultation process will last 6 school weeks, starting on Tuesday 7th January 2014. Governors would welcome your views and comments and invite you to any of the following meetings:

Wednesday 8th January 2014 at Umberleigh Primary School 6.00 – 7.30pm

Thursday 9th January 2014 at Brayford Village Hall 6.30 – 8.00pm

Wednesday 22nd January 2014 at East Anstey Primary School 6.30 – 8.00pm

Thursday 23rd January 2014 at Bishops Nympton Primary School 6.30 – 8.00pm

Monday 3rd February 2014 at East Anstey Primary School 6.30 – 7.30pm

Tuesday 4th February 2014 at Umberleigh Primary School 6.30 – 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th February 2014 at Brayford Village Hall 6.30 – 7.30pm

Thursday 6th February 2014 at Bishops Nympton Primary School 6.30 – 7.30pm

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions and would like to discuss federation, please contact your school to make an appointment in the usual manner.

Written responses should be addressed to 'The Chair of Governors' of your school and must be received by **Tuesday 25th February 2014, 3:30pm**. A box for written responses will be provided in each school.

Alternatively, you may use the appropriate email address: chair@umberleigh.devon.sch.uk or chair@east-anstey-primary.devon.sch.uk

It is the governors who will make the final decision, drawing upon a broad evidence base including the views of parents. The governing body from each federation will take its own decision on this proposal. As with any governing body decision this is a simple majority taken at a full governing body meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you and will, of course, keep you fully informed regarding our final decision at the end of February.

Yours sincerely



Tim Gurney
Executive Headteacher



Catherine Baughan
Chair of Governors
Exmoor Link Federation



Penny Wignall
Chair of Governors
Brayford & Umberleigh Federation