

A PROPOSAL TO FEDERATE

John Ruskin Secondary School (Community)

Coniston CofE Primary School (Voluntary Controlled)

Consultation period Tuesday 5th June 2018 to Friday 20th July 2018



Proposal

The governing bodies of John Ruskin School and Coniston Church of England Primary School confirm that they are in agreement with a proposal to federate and are seeking the views of parents and carers, staff and other stakeholders on the idea of establishing a federation between the two schools from the 1st of January 2019. The name of the new federation will be The Fells Federation.

Each school will maintain its individual character, status and ethos so that it can continue to best serve the community within which they are situated. The schools have successfully collaborated for a number of years, sharing staff, resources and supporting each other to improve and achieve the very best possible outcomes for their students. This proposal formalises that relationship between the schools and improves capacity for both schools to meet the challenges of the future.

The senior teams and governing bodies of the schools are behind the proposal to federate, but ultimately we need your feedback to ensure our wider community is fully engaged in the process and has an opportunity to consider the benefits of more formal collaboration. Ultimately this is a proposal to enhance the pupils' school experience and attainment through shared resources and experiences which your feedback can influence.

Governors wish to hear your views on this proposal – details of how you can make your representations are at the end of this report

What is a federation?

A federation involves a number of schools coming together under one governing body. It allows a different mind-set to operate where education as a whole can be considered from 3 to 16 in our community setting.

The advantages of federation

There are lots of reasons why schools may want to work together within a federation. These include cost savings, improved opportunities for children and sharing of good practice between staff. Our governing bodies feel there will be the following particular benefits to federation:

- Access to better resources, including specialist staff
- Improved transition to secondary school
- Sharing of policies
- Sharing of support and resources for pupils with special educational needs
- Retaining good teaching staff
- Greater strength in school leadership

The vision for the federation

A federation of schools with unique identities and a common heritage, supporting each other's growth and success, to provide all our young people with the wisdom, skills, knowledge and aspiration to achieve their potential and become valued and valuable members of society.

The constitution of the new governing body

The governing body shall consist of the following eleven governors, the term of office being four years, (the head teachers are ex-officio, meaning there is no end term for this role on the governing body as it is by virtue of their employed role):

- a. 2 parent governors
- b. 1 local authority governor
- c. 1 staff governor
- d. 2 head teachers
- e. 2 foundation governors
- f. 3 co-opted governors

The following statutory regulations have been implemented when constituting the governing body:

- *The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 only allows for 2 parent governors and no allowance to stipulate from which school;*
- *The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 only allows for 1 staff governor and no allowance to stipulate from which school;*
- *The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012, introduced the category of co-opted governors, the total number of co-opted governors who are eligible to be elected as staff governors must not exceed one third of the total membership of the governing body.*

In addition the governing board has the option to appoint Associate Members drawn from the local communities. They are not governors and therefore do not have a vote on governing board decisions. They are appointed because of their specific expertise and experience to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school(s).

Staffing arrangements in the federation

Staffing arrangements will remain as they are and each school will retain its own head teacher.

Admissions authorities in the federation

The admissions authority for John Ruskin School and Coniston Primary School remains the Local Authority

The consultation process

Governors welcome representation on the attached form that can be dropped off at any of the two schools involved.

A consultation evening will be held at **6pm** on **Wednesday 4th July** at Coniston CE Primary School

FEEDBACK FORM ON THE PROPSAL FOR THE FELLS FEDERATION

Please return this form to the school office of one of the two schools involved in this proposal before the closing date of Friday 20th July

Name of person responding: _____

What best describes your relationship with the schools (please tick)?

	John Ruskin School	Coniston Primary School
Parent / carer of pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you in favour of federation between the 2 schools: YES / NO

Comments

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