

Helmsley CP School, Kirkbymoorside CP School, Ryedale School and Sinnington CP School.

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL FOR FEDERATION

CONSULTATION PERIOD: 19th JANUARY 2016 – 8th MARCH 2016

19th January 2016

Dear parents, staff members and members of our local communities,

As the Chairs of the Governing Bodies of Helmsley CP School, Kirkbymoorside CP School, Ryedale School and Sinnington CP School, we are writing to you to seek your views as part of a formal consultation on an important potential development in the governance arrangements of our four schools.

Last summer, Ryedale School invited all of its feeder primary schools to informally explore the benefits of federation. Gillamoor CE Primary School, Helmsley CP School, Hovingham CE VC Primary School, Kirkbymoorside CP School, Nawton CP School, Rosedale Abbey CP School, Ryedale School, Sinnington CP School and St Hilda's CE VC Primary School all expressed an interest in informally exploring federation. Although supportive of the idea, St Benedict's chose not to be part of the informal exploration. Over the last term representatives from each school have been involved in research and discussion, including attending two workshops led by the Local Authority in November 2015 to inform their decision as to whether to proceed to public consultation on federation. This proposal has the support of North Yorkshire County Council.

Having given this much consideration our governing bodies have voted to proceed to public consultation on federation. Those schools who have decided not to move to public consultation at this time, were positive in their feedback regarding federation and made it clear they were not ruling out the idea of joining 'The Ryedale Federation' in the future, should it be formed at the end of this consultation stage.

The belief is held that governing together as a single governing board in a formal partnership will develop the informal partnerships that already exist for the benefit of all our children. The change to a federation will formalise the commitment from all schools to work together, and in doing so, build upon the success of informal collaboration both now and in the future.

If we proceed to federation, a single Board of Governors will be created to govern all schools within 'The Ryedale Federation'.

We would like to be absolutely clear that we are NOT proposing an amalgamation or merger of the four schools. All schools would remain as separate schools within their own individual communities and with their own ethos. Each school would retain their own headteacher but would share a single governing body and be supported by an Executive Leadership Team.

Please find attached a consultation report which sets out the details and implications of the proposal to federate Helmsley CP School, Kirkbymoorside CP School, Ryedale School and Sinnington CP School with effect from 1st July 2016.

The consultation report outlines when and where the public meetings will be held as part of the consultation process and how you can make your views known. The consultation has the support of North Yorkshire County Council, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors from each school, and their respective governing bodies.

A final decision on federation will not be made until the governing bodies of all four schools have collectively and then separately considered the feedback from the consultation. Please be assured that all feedback will be considered thoroughly before any decision is made.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Marwood
Chair of Governors
Helmsley CP School

Mr John Goodyear
Chair of Governors
Kirkbymoorside CP School

Mr David Ball
Chair of Governors
Ryedale School

Mrs Heather White
Chair of Governors
Sinnington CP School