

Meadowside Primary School

Executive Head Teacher :Mrs J Garnham
Head of School :Miss M Lewis



Growing at Meadowside Primary School

Park Road
Burton Latimer
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN15 5QY
Tel : 01536 723985

email: admin@meadowsideprimary.org

www.meadowsideprimary.org

31st January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Consultation for the Federation of Meadowside Primary school and Great Doddington Primary School with The Green Shoots Federation of Schools.

As you are aware, there has been a 'Soft Federation' between Great Doddington Primary School and Meadowside Primary school since April 2023. Mrs Garnham is the Executive Head Teacher leading both schools, with Heads of Schools: Miss Lewis at Meadowside and Miss Shelton at Great Doddington.

At the beginning of the Autumn term 2024, Governing Body meetings were held at both schools, where it was proposed to consider that a hard federation should be formed. Both Governing Bodies voted unanimously in favour.

This letter sets out the reasons why the schools wish to commit to a hard federation.

Schools work best where there is a committed and skilled staff team who have a shared understanding of what it is they are trying to achieve. Both schools share this understanding. Pupils are put at the heart of what the schools do and although the importance of academic success is recognised, the staff of both schools look to develop the whole child. The curriculum on offer to the children at both schools are rich and varied. Schools are successful where leaders know the needs of the community they serve; where there is a shared understanding of what the school stands for; its ethos, its mission, its traditions. A school can only be good if it can attract and retain staff who believe in what it stands for.

A sad fact is that the current education landscape is one where many schools are striving for financial sustainability and schools are especially under threat. A hard federation is one way to meet this challenge head on. The current situation, along with economic challenges faced by many in society, has led to one of the largest teacher recruitment dilemmas the country has seen. New figures reveal that nationally there are thousands of fewer trainee teachers starting this year, across all phases of education.

To be successful requires hard work on the part of the committed staff team. Staff at both schools have benefited from the links that have been developed over the last year, and to move to a hard federation ensures that both staff teams can continue to share ideas, swap best practice, and support each other in order to pursue even better opportunities for the children in the future.

Our values: - Respect Responsibility Reflection Resilience

The Governing Body of both schools is currently consulting on the proposal, and we wish to conclude this process by 15th March 2024, in order that responses may be considered, with a view for any change being put into effect as soon as possible thereafter.

Any responses to this consultation can be directed to the Clerk of the Governors via emails or the office in paper form. Included with this letter is a consultation document outlining questions parents may have and an events timeline.

Parents meeting have been organised for parents to meet with the governors, executive Head teachers and the Head of Schools.

Great Doddington Primary School 5th February 2024 at 6.00pm. There will be a coffee morning on 2nd February at 9.00am.

Meadowside Primary School 13th February at 6.00pm. There will be afternoon tea on 1st March at 2.30.

A copy of this letter and the consultation document can also be found on the websites for both schools.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Braham
Chair of Governors

Angela Pratt
Chair of Governors