

Dear Parents,

Please find below FAQ from other federated schools' consultation evenings.

Questions raised by parents

Are the two schools merging?

No. The proposal is for the two schools is to federate. A Federation is not a merger. The two schools will continue to run as two separate schools with their own unique identities. The school names will not change. The Federation proposal is for a Governance change only. Parents of future school age children will still have a choice of school as currently and applications to school will still be coordinated by Shropshire Admissions Team.

Are the Governors planning on making the school an academy?

No. The Governors have chosen to explore Federation. The two schools would remain Church of England Controlled schools within Shropshire Local Authority and Lichfield Diocese.

What are the implications of not Federating?

If pupil numbers fall as predicted within Shropshire as a county, then the local authority could consider closure of schools with surplus places. If St John the Baptist Primary becomes part of a hub of excellence at the heart of a federation we would hope to have an element of protection. We would anticipate that the local authority would wish to maintain any school that added value to the wider community. This is why a Federation would secure our long term sustainability.

Will teachers from Bomere be teaching lessons at St. John the Baptist?

As currently, St John the Baptist Primary will employ its own teaching and non-teaching staff and Bomere Heath Primary will employ their own teaching and non-teaching staff. Part time teaching staff may be used to cover classes in both schools if staff are absent due to sickness or courses.

"We didn't choose Bomere Heath Primary School for our children..."

We respect the fact that our parents chose St John the Baptist Primary above other schools for their child and as such parents should feel reassured that any future Federation will not change the curriculum at St John the Baptist Primary, the uniform, or the ethos. We are proud of our reputation which we have worked hard for and we would not wish to jeopardise this. If the two schools federate, children and parents will not notice a difference in November. Parents have chosen St John the Baptist Primary and they will continue to get the St John the Baptist Primary School that they know. Benefits that parents should see over time are increased resources for children, and increased staff expertise brought about through the sharing of good practice across the two schools which will only impact positively on pupil outcomes.

Will children at St John the Baptist Primary School regularly be doing lessons with Bomere Heath children?

No. Children will continue to be taught in their own schools with their own teachers. Only when an opportunity exists to enhance the curriculum, such as a visit from an author, or a specialist art day, would the two schools consider the benefits of children joining together in one school. We would however consider sharing residential trips and ensuring that our Year 6 children have opportunity to form relationships and widen their circle of friends prior to transition to the Corbet Secondary School. This would be very similar in the approach we currently take when working with our local secondary schools. We would always write to parents about an offsite activity and ask for parental permission as we do now.

What is the real motivation behind the Federation?

Unquestionably, the motivation of school leaders on entering Headship is to make a positive difference to the children and the communities which they serve. Through Federation the Head Teacher and Governors have an opportunity to influence outcomes for a wider group of children. St John the Baptist Primary should feel privileged to play a part in this future change which can, overtime, see us in a very strong position within County and provide a more sustainable future. Economies of scale also play a part in the Federation. Saving money on Service Level Agreements such as catering, grounds maintenance, library service, etc. will allow savings to be put back in to the school and the education of the children. Budgets are becoming significantly smaller and Federation will help to ensure we are a sustainable, viable school. As leaders of Church of England Primary Schools we have a moral imperative to make this difference. This is about improving outcomes for ALL children; our future generation.

Are the children at Bomere Heath Primary different in any way from the children at St John the Baptist Primary?

No. Both schools work with outside agencies to support individual pupil needs whether these be learning needs or behavioural needs. It is good leadership and a positive working relationship with home which leads to appropriate support for children with additional learning needs or behavioural difficulties, and positive outcomes. All children in all schools need nurturing. The influence of strong school leadership and quality teaching and learning on pupil attitudes, behaviour and motivation must not be underestimated.

What are the implications of not Federating?

If pupil numbers fall as predicted within Shropshire as a county, then the local authority could consider closure of schools with surplus places. If St John the Baptist Primary becomes part of a hub of excellence at the heart of a federation we would hope to have an element of protection. We would anticipate that the local authority would wish to maintain any school that added value to the wider community. This is why a Federation would secure our long term sustainability.

Will there be sufficient representation from parents on a Federated board of Governors?

Yes. In addition to the proposed one elected Parent Governor a number of Co-opted Governors could be parents.

Who decides if the Federation goes ahead?

Both governing bodies (after hearing the outcomes of the public consultation which will include responses from all stakeholders and not just parents) will hold their own full governing body meeting. At the meeting, the governors must take a vote on whether to go ahead with the federation. The decision is determined by the majority vote. If necessary, the Chair has a casting vote. Both governing bodies must vote in favour of Federation for the Federation to be realised.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many Thanks,

**Mrs Julie Ball
Headteacher**