

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SETTLE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL KIRKBY-IN-MALHAMDALE UNITED (VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the background to this proposal?
The two schools have been in a formal collaboration since September 2018. A more efficient and long term strategic arrangement would be to consider Federation and the merging of the two governing bodies.
2. Why are the schools federating? They are successful viable schools in their own right
Federation will enhance the collaborative work already going on across the schools and continue to strengthen our partnership ties with a view to further raising attainment and enhancing provision at both schools.
3. Is this the first step along the road to closure for either of the two schools?
No. On the contrary it is about combining strengths and expertise and offering a more viable and sustainable rural school structure. Importantly it is about strengthening our vision to bring additional benefits to each pupil's learning experience.
4. What will the leadership arrangements be?
The school would be led by the Executive Head Teacher, Mr Wright with Mrs Allen continuing her role as Acting Head Teacher at Kirkby Malham Primary and Miss Thompson continuing her role as Deputy Head Teacher at Settle Primary. This leadership structure will be supported by the experienced team of teachers and non teaching staff from each school.
5. What about Ofsted?
The schools will continue to be inspected by Ofsted as separate schools. However, federated schools can request that inspections of each school take place within a reasonable time scale of each other and Ofsted themselves will be aware of the arrangements.
6. What will the governance arrangements be? Will there be representation from each school on the Governing Body?
In a federation, a single governing body is responsible for the governance of the two schools. The new governing body will be drawn from the two schools and the wider community.
7. If there is only one Governing Body for the two schools, will parents have less opportunity to be involved in the operation of the individual schools?
Initially there will be two parents elected from across the two schools. If there is no parent representation for a school following this process then the governing body reserves the right to co-opt a parent from that school, as long as the proposed candidate has the necessary skills to effectively serve the two schools. Each school will be keen to ensure that there are wider opportunities for involving parents in the federation.
8. Is the federation going to improve my child's education?
Yes, as staff will be able to share their curriculum expertise across the two schools and there will be wider opportunities provided by close partnership working. We believe that educational provision will be strengthened in both schools whilst retaining the unique qualities of each school. In the case of Settle CE Primary School Federation will *enhance* the distinctive Christian nature of the school and at Kirkby Malham Primary it will continue to operate as a non-denominational Voluntary Aided School.
9. Will Settle CE Primary continue to be a distinctive church school and maintain its current ethos? Yes. The Federation arrangement will preserve the distinctive Christian ethos and Settle CE Primary School will continue to serve the community as a church school. This includes Settle CE Primary having a SIAMS statutory inspection.

10. Could my child be in shared classes with pupils from other schools?
There is no intention to change class structures or organisation within schools but there will be parts of the curriculum where shared classes could be taught (For example, PE, drama, Forest School and STEM related activities)
11. Will pupils share facilities?
Yes, and this can include access to clubs and activities during holiday periods such as Easter and Christmas.
12. Would children at each school keep their present uniform?
In the first instance yes, but the new governing body may wish to consider this in the future. For example, we might have a shared sports kit for times when we partake in regional sports events.
13. Would either school change their name?
Any name change for a school would be a decision for the governing body and after consultation with parents but there are no plans for this.
14. How will existing staff be affected?
All staff are employed by NYCC. Existing contracts will be unaffected. Staff who begin employment under a federated school arrangement could be asked to work in either school. The federation will have a single governing body that will maintain close links with NYCC.
15. Will my child have less chance of getting a particular teacher that she/he has at the moment?
There are no plans for swapping or changing teachers between schools but under a federated arrangement there is the flexibility to share staff across both schools offering the pupils a range of specialisms.
16. How will federation affect the financial position of the schools?
The budget for each school will remain separate but the governing body will be able to look at ways of giving value for money through joint purchasing and other cross-federation working.
17. Is it possible for new members to join the federation after it has been formed?
Yes, it is possible for new schools to seek admission into the federation. They will be required to conduct a statutory consultation process. They will also need to show how they will contribute to the work and vision of the federation before being accepted into it. There are no plans for any new members in the foreseeable future.
18. Will money from the budget be used to subsidise the other schools?
There are no additional costs to the schools should they federate. There are though likely to be opportunities to make better use of resources, due to the economies of scale and the use of budgets to support all pupils attending the two schools.
19. What happens when a member of staff leaves?
When anyone leaves, the governing body will review the situation and decide if that position needs to be replaced.
20. What will happen to admissions?
NYCC will remain as the Admissions Authority for Settle CE Primary and the governing body will continue to be responsible for admissions for Kirkby-in-Malhamdale as they are at present. The admissions arrangements for the two schools will remain quite separate.
21. Can a federation be removed or dissolved?
Yes. There is a statutory process for a school seeking to leave a federation. Our decision to consider federation however, demonstrates a commitment from the governors of both schools to continue to work together in a long term partnership arrangement to the future benefit of both school communities.