

TEMPLEWOOD SCHOOL
Pentley Park,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts, AL8 7SD



Interim Headteacher: Mrs A Abley
Deputy Headteacher : Mrs R Howes

☎ 01707 324251
admin@templewood.herts.sch.uk
www.templewood.herts.sch.uk

15th February 2019

Dear Parents

At our recent governing body meeting, governors considered options for the future legal structure of Templewood. As you are aware, this comes within the context of our continued work to secure a permanent Headteacher for Templewood, work which remains our highest priority. However, governors are also obliged to ensure that the school is operating in the best way possible for the benefit of its pupils, which in the current climate means considering whether it should remain a maintained local authority school, look to academise, expand or work with other schools. These are not mutually exclusive options.

As a governing body, we have thoroughly researched all of the options and the likely consequences for the children at Templewood. We have ruled out academisation, which appears to offer no long term benefit for Templewood's children that cannot be achieved in other ways, and could bring significant disadvantages. We have also ruled out seeking to expand the school, with English Heritage's likely objections to the expansion of a Grade II* Listed Building being a significant factor here.

The governing body did however agree to look more closely at federation. Federation is the term that is used to mean working together with another school or schools which remain within local authority control. We have seen the benefit that collaboration with other schools can bring over the last few years and are now exploring this further.

Federation can take different forms, with formal federations sharing a governing body, but informal federations maintaining separate governing bodies. Whether formal or informal, schools usually share resources when it makes sense to do so, but maintain separate budgets. For Templewood, the advantages are that a federation could provide a strong, stable leadership team, better professional development opportunities for teachers (thus benefitting the children's learning and attracting more applicants for the roles) as well as sharing resources.

We are not, however, putting all our eggs in one basket with regards to school leadership: there is still time to recruit a Headteacher for Templewood for September if this is not secured through a federation.

In my last letter, I said that we will consult members of the school community if any other options are to be explored further. Governors remain committed to this, but we have more work to do before we can get to that stage. Federation will only work if we find the right school to partner with and have a clear view of what we want to achieve at the outset, and so work at present is focussed on these two areas.

We will of course keep you up to date with relevant developments. In the meantime, please remember you can contact the governing body via e-mail at chairofgovernors@templewood.herts.sch.uk about the recruitment of the Headteacher or the future structure of the school. Your children's teachers, Mrs Abley and other school staff should be contacted with any day to day queries.

Yours sincerely

Helen Anthony

