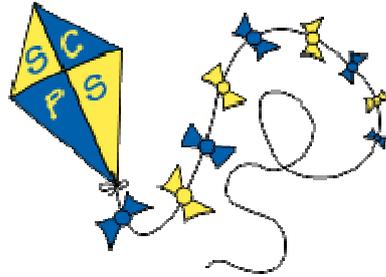




Millbrook



Shevington Community



Shevington Vale

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL

FOR SHEVINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

TO JOIN THE FEDERATION OF MILLBROOK AND SHEVINGTON VALE

This paper contains:

- **An outline of the proposal;**
- **A response form for you to complete and return**

The Proposal:

The Governing Bodies of Shevington Community Primary School and the Federation of Shevington Vale and Millbrook present this document for consultation to the parents, carers, staff, governors and friends of the three schools.

The proposal is to enable the joining of Shevington Community Primary School to the existing Federation. The Governing Bodies of Shevington Community Primary School and the Federation decided that they want to make this provision at meetings on 17 and 18 July 2014. The provision of a three school Federation would come into effect from 3 November 2014.

We make this proposal as the Executive Headteacher and leadership team of the existing Federation is currently providing day-to-day management support to Shevington Community Primary School. The present circumstances have resulted in both governing bodies wishing to formalise the arrangement for the future.

The consultation is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposal.

Staff will be consulted at regular staff meetings at their respective schools and consultation meetings with unions will be arranged on request.

What is a Federation?

A federation is where two or more schools work closely together with a single Governing Body, a single leadership team and a shared Executive Headteacher.

The Governors share a commitment to all of the children and responsibility for providing high quality education to all.

The focus of a federation leadership is to raise standards across the federation schools and hence improve education for a large number of children in the community of Shevington.

Federations are now common across the country as a way to make smaller schools more secure in the future.

Why was Federation right for Millbrook and Shevington Vale?

The governing body of the existing two-school Federation firmly believes that federation delivered significant advantages for all of our children in a safe, happy and much more rigorous learning environment. This is because together we provide effective leadership and maximise the use of our resources. We have the strength and expertise to face the challenges of the future together. We also have very high standards and expect the best from everyone. We focus relentlessly on school improvement and pool our expertise to achieve this. We learn from each other.

ABOUT THE EXISTING FEDERATION

Our aims:

We aim to give our children roots and wings - roots that go deep into the heart of their community and wings to imagine, aspire and dream.

We want our children to have ambitions, to enjoy their childhood, to give joy to others and with their families to prepare for great futures.

By our work we

- sustain the schools' excellent reputations in the community
- collaborate with other schools and organisations for the benefit of the children
- contribute to the local community through joint projects

Regardless of the children's level of ability, health, gender, race or background, we:

- provide an outstanding curriculum and opportunities to grow, improve and excel
- provide outstanding care, guidance and support for learning and personal development
- enrich learning with exciting, interesting experiences both in and beyond school
- teach children about their community and what makes it special
- help them to develop the life skills of confidence, independence, tolerance and resilience in the face of challenges

Our Values underpin all that we do

We value

- respect for everyone
- care and concern for others
- tolerance of our own ideas and those of others
- good manners
- justice and fairness
- everyone having a voice that is heard
- feeling safe and protected

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE FEDERATION

- **The governors and management of three schools join together whilst keeping their separate identities**
- **In this way all schools benefit from sharing expertise and resources**

- **Shevington Community Primary School will share the advantages currently enjoyed by the Federation schools**
- **The Federation will also benefit from the additional expertise and resources provided by Shevington Community Primary School**

Mrs Tomlinson and Mr Marsh – heads of school at Millbrook and Shevington Vale work very closely together to improve teaching and learning across the Federation. They provide mentoring and training to staff at both schools and regularly monitor the impact of school improvement strategies. Throughout the year there are many joint staff meetings at which teaching policies and practices are discussed and improvements are planned.

What will the change mean for all three schools?

The schools continue to function as normal.

- Pupils attend the school of their parents' choice
- Teaching staff remain in place although there will at times be some sharing of staff between the schools to share expertise
- Leadership staff will operate as now across the Federation
- Each school will have a head of school who will manage the day to day running of one school and concentrate on developing teaching and learning for the children's' benefit
- Each school will still have its own budget
- The schools will operate separately day to day, but there will be many opportunities for joint projects and partnerships between staff and children.

In 2014 the Federation children have again benefited from having Mrs Taylor, a language specialist to teach them French. Such arrangements are becoming more common in both directions and benefit both schools

What are the main benefits?

We believe that all schools will benefit from a firm commitment to federation.

The benefits are:

- The children develop relationships and friendships across the community of Shevington giving them a broader view of their world and insight into how people can work well together. This makes life more interesting and exciting for the children
- Teachers are able to plan together sharing good practice and ideas. The Federation is a rewarding environment in which staff are able to grow professionally. New opportunities will enable us to retain high quality staff
- The Federation is part of the future for primary schools in this local authority which will raise its profile and standing in Wigan
- Shevington Community Primary School, like the current Federation schools, will benefit from economies of scale in buying goods and services

- It will also benefit from the highly experienced leadership team that has already brought about significant improvements to the Federation schools.

For the third year in December 2013 we found lots of ways of bringing the children from both schools together. The infants attended each other's Christmas nativity plays. By now they are really familiar with each other's schools. Older children performed a joint Carol Service at St Anne's Church in the village. Later in the year some children got together to present a very moving Holocaust memorial service for the whole community again at the parish church. The children have participated as a Federation team in several local sporting events.

What will it mean for Shevington Community Primary School families?

Shevington Community Primary School has a long and proud history, giving it a special and unique position in this area. It is important that this is preserved.

Day to day there will be little change for parents, children and staff.

- The schools will keep their organisation, uniforms and identities
- Admission arrangements will remain as they are now
- Parents will see standards rising as a result of access to a greater range of resources
- There is the potential for the larger federation to be a real hub of excellence within Wigan
- All three schools offer extended services such as breakfast clubs and pre-schools. They will continue to do so and it will be possible to share these resources as well.

Ofsted comments in July 2013 show that the current Federation schools have the same ethos of putting children's well being and welfare first and making sure that every child's needs are met. Both are very caring communities and are well supported by parents and families.

What will it mean for staff?

The Federation will be led by an executive headteacher – Mrs Gabrielle Gray. Each school will have a *head of school* responsible for the day to day running of the school.

The rest of the leadership team will be made up of senior staff from all three schools and the governing body will agree its structure.

There will be no change to the contracts of existing staff and all staff will continue to be employed by Wigan Council.

Newly appointed staff will as now be appointed to the Federation giving the leadership team some flexibility in staff deployment.

What about the governors?

The governing body will be made up of governors from all three school communities. The aim is to take the expertise, experience, energy and enthusiasm of the current governing bodies and put them to work across all three schools.

At their meeting on 2 September 2014 both governing bodies agreed the following structure for a newly constituted governing body to come into being should Shevington Community Primary School join the Federation.

Category	Number of Governors
Executive Headteacher	1
Parent	6
Staff	3
Local Authority / Community	4
Total number	14

What happens now?

This document is the start of a six week consultation period which will begin on **8 September 2014** and close at noon on **20 October 2014**

We are consulting with:

- All staff paid to work at all three schools
- Every person known to be a parent / carer of a registered pupil at each school
- Wigan Council
- Other schools in the area
- Other interested parties

We want to hear your views. It would be most helpful to have these in writing. You can respond by completing the response form below and posting it to either:

Shevington Community Primary School
Miles Lane
Wigan
Lancashire
WN6 8EW

Or

Shevington Vale Primary School
Runshaw Avenue
Appley Bridge
Wigan
WN6 9JP

or

Millbrook Primary School
Elmfield
Shevington Wigan
WN6 8DL

Alternatively there will be posting boxes in the entrance halls of all three schools. You can place your response form in the boxes at any of the schools.

You can also email a response to the schools at:

enquiries@admin.shevingtonvale.wigan.sch.uk

enquiries@admin.millbrook.wigan.sch.uk

enquiries@admin.shevingtonprimary.wigan.sch.uk

Frequently asked questions...

Will the children move or swap schools?

No – the children will still attend one of the schools as they do now.

Will teachers move or swap schools?

No. Most teachers will continue to work at their own school. There will be opportunities for staff to work at the other schools as part of their professional development but it won't be that often and only when it suits the needs of all of the schools. Currently our language and music specialist teachers teach at both Federation schools during the week. Some support staff have roles at both schools.

Will the schools keep their names?

Yes – for now. It's important to recognise that although the schools will be united in many ways, they keep their separate identities. The current Federation has not yet adopted a Federation name as has happened in other areas but this expansion may be an opportunity to create a strong Federation identity that will boost the reputation of all three schools across Wigan

Will applying for a place at one of the schools be any different?

No. You will apply to the school of your choice as you do now. However, don't be surprised to be greeted by the same headteacher or senior staff if you choose to look around one of the schools! In the end the choice is yours.

Will money be shared?

Each school keeps and uses its own budget for its own children. A portion of the money of both schools can be pooled for activities that benefit the children of both schools. One school does not however subsidise the other.

Will the schools share an Ofsted inspection and will their results be combined in the league tables?

Not yet to both - the schools are inspected separately (as the Federation schools were in July 2013 but on the same two days!) So far results are reported separately but as the Department for Education increasingly recognises the existence and benefits of Federations this may change in the future.

What happens next?

At the end of the consultation period both governing bodies meet to consider the responses and vote on whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If both governing bodies agree to proceed, the governing body of Shevington Community Primary School is dissolved and a new federation governing body is constituted.

If either governing body decides not to proceed to expand the Federation the existing governing body arrangements will remain in place.

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Response form

Please give us your views on the proposal in the box below

Comments:

Name: (optional).....

Which of the following best describes your connection to the school?

Please tick one only, which should be your main interest ✓

Parent/carer of a child at one of the schools	
Member of teaching staff	
Member of support staff	
School governor	
Member of the community	

The school I am mainly connected to is: (optional) ✓

Shevington Community	Shevington Vale	Millbrook
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Please note that the closing date for the return of this form is 12 noon on **20 October 2014**. You will find post boxes in the entrance hall at each school.