



## Bishops Tawton Primary School

## Langtree Community School

Monday 28 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware there have been a lot of changes within education recently which have challenged school communities to think more creatively to ensure that we are best placed to maintain the best possible educational experience for all our children. Financial pressures are also forcing schools to look at innovative and cost effective solutions. Our schools took the decision to form a management partnership in July 2021 when Langtree Community School needed to secure experienced leadership. Governors have monitored the success of this partnership and would now like to propose to make the arrangement a permanent one, by moving into a formal federation, whereby both schools will share the Executive Leadership of Melanie Smallwood.

A federation is a family of schools, with each school retaining its unique character, its own budget and performance tables and having a separate Ofsted inspection. The current admissions processes will remain the same. The schools within the federation will share one governing board made up from representatives from both school communities.

There is no single blue print for federation; each federation is tailored to the needs of the different schools and communities that are involved. There are currently, approximately, 30 federations across Devon involving over 80 schools, with the first federations in Devon forming in 2006 and many others considering this as a successful and sustainable model for their school's future.

We are proposing to build on the solid foundations established between our two schools and ensure continuing strong leadership and high standards in teaching and learning whilst maintaining each school's individual ethos and values.

### **What will the benefits be for our schools?**

- Sharing strong and proven leadership;
- Sharing teaching expertise;
- Increased availability of teaching resources;
- Increasing opportunities for the children to mix with a wider group both academically and socially;
- Greater access to a wider range of resources (human and physical), and opportunities to make some savings to reinvest in children's learning;
- Joint planning and curriculum development opportunities for staff;
- Joint training of staff to impact on children's learning;
- Likely to prove more attractive when recruiting new staff in the future;
- Provide the children with even wider opportunities to prepare them for a more secure transition process.

### **How will this work?**

There will be one Executive Head teacher with a Head of School within each school. The Heads of School will be enabled to focus their energies on teaching, learning and standards.

The federation will have one governing board composed of representatives from each school community. The make-up of the governing board has to adhere to the 2012 Constitution Federation Regulations, as amended in 2016.

The membership of this single governing board includes representation for parents and staff, co-opted governors and a local authority governor. Together this group of people will take overall responsibility for the schools within the federation. The proposed size of the federated governing body would be 12, this would include:

- 2 Parent governors
- 2 Staff governors (including the Executive Head teacher)
- 1 Local Authority appointed governor
- 2 Foundation governors from the Three Valleys Learning Partnership (Bishops Tawton Primary School Foundation since 2014)
- 5 Co-opted governors

The Governing Boards are proposing that the federation start date would be 26 April 2022. This will allow plenty of time to recruit and add to a strong staff team ready for September 2022.

### **There is a Federation Consultation Process**

The Governors of both the schools involved have set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the community, the local authority, and other key partners. The consultation process will last 6 school weeks, starting from 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Governors would welcome your views and comments and invite you to attend one or more of the following meetings:

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March between 5pm and 7pm at Bishops Tawton Primary School  
\*With the presentation repeated remotely the following week (date to be confirmed)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March between 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Langtree Community School.  
\*With the presentation repeated remotely the following week (date to be confirmed)

If you are unable to attend any of the above meetings and would like to discuss federation further please contact the respective school and a further information sharing meeting may be arranged.

Written responses should be addressed to 'The Chair of Governors' of your school and must be received by **Friday 08 April**. A box for written responses will be provided in each school. You can also share your comments via email to either:

[clerk@langtree.devon.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@langtree.devon.sch.uk) or [btclerk@bishopstawton-primary.org](mailto:btclerk@bishopstawton-primary.org)

It is the Governors who will make the final decision, drawing upon a broad evidence base including the views of parents. Each governing board from each school considering federation takes its own decision. As with any governing board decision this is a simple majority taken at a meeting of the full governing board.

We look forward to hearing from you and will, of course, keep you fully informed regarding our final decision in April.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ong

Kaye French



Chair of Governors  
Bishops Tawton Primary School



Chair of Governors  
Langtree Community School



Melanie Smallwood  
Head teacher  
Bishops Tawton Primary School