

**Hemyock Primary**



**Sampford Peverell CofE Primary**



**Wilcombe Primary**



25<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

The Governors of Hemyock Primary, Sampford Peverell C of E Primary and Wilcombe Primary Schools are considering working more closely together by forming a Federation.

This letter outlines how you can get involved and share your views on our schools working together in a Federation. A Federation is often used to describe a family of schools working closely together to improve teaching and learning and children's experiences and educational achievements.

In a Federation each school very much retains its unique ethos and character and its distinct sense of local community. Each school also retains its own budget, performance tables and undergoes separate inspections.

This proposed Federation involves a mix of Church and Community Schools, as a Church School Sampford Peverell would always maintain and develop its Christian distinctiveness.

#### **So why federate?**

We are proposing to federate to ensure and develop the continuity of successful strategic leadership, which will secure the very highest standards in teaching and learning and the very best outcomes for your children.

We would like to reassure all parents that the proposed Federation will help to secure the three schools' futures.

#### **The benefits of this exciting opportunity to federate our schools will be:**

- To improve outcomes for all the children of all the schools;
- To secure and develop successful leadership for the future;
- Greater staff development opportunities which will enable our schools to keep and develop valued staff;
- Encouraging staff to share best practice at all levels, resulting in further improvements in the quality of teaching and learning in all partner schools;
- That individual budgets of each school can be used more effectively and creatively to support children's progress;
- Wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils, e.g. joint school projects, residentials, sports and creative arts projects;
- Enabling pupils to meet and work as a part of a larger group e.g. Year 6 groups from the three schools can work together prior to transition to Secondary Schools;

- Further opportunities to share resources e.g. video conferencing and transport to different venues and events;
- Making better use of staff expertise in specialist areas which will raise standards e.g. Lead English and Maths teachers to work with staff across the three schools;
- Shared opportunities to provide extended services across the Federation e.g. wrap around childcare provision;
- Increased purchasing power and ability to secure best value.

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

Initially, for the summer term Mr Chown will continue in his role as Executive Headteacher of Wilcombe and Sampford Peverell Primary Schools with Mrs Peters continuing as Headteacher of Hemyock Primary.

During the summer term Mr Chown and the Federated Governing Body will seek to appoint a Head of Teaching and Learning to each school. Mrs Peters has indicated her desire to apply for one of these roles. If appointed, Mrs Peters would resign from her role as Headteacher to assume the role of Head of Teaching and Learning within the Federation.

As from September 2010 the vision for our proposed Federation is that Mr Gary Chown will become Executive Headteacher leading the three schools. Mr Chown will work closely with the Heads of Teaching and Learning in the schools. The initial point of contact for parents and pupils will be the Head of Teaching and Learning in each school.

The Federation will have one governing body composed of representatives from each school community. This single governing body will include representation for parents and staff of all the schools, community governors, local authority and foundation governors. Together this group of people will take overall responsibility for all schools within the Federation.

The proposed size of the federated governing body is 16, this includes:

- 6 Parent governors (2 elected from each school)
- 2 Community governors
- 4 Staff governors (to include Executive Headteacher)
- 2 Local Authority appointed governors
- 2 Foundation governors

The Governing Bodies are proposing that the Federation start date would be 4th May 2010.

The admitting authority would continue to be Devon and the current admissions process will remain unaltered.

#### **There is a Federation consultation process**

The Governors of Hemyock, Sampford Peverell and Wilcombe schools are required to set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the local authority and other key partners such as the Diocesan Board of Education. The consultation process will last 6 weeks, starting from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Governors would like your views and

invite you to any of the following meetings at any school. Mr Chown and Governors from each school will be in attendance at the meetings on:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 at 2pm at Wilcombe Primary School

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 at 7pm at Hemyock Primary School

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 at 5pm at Sampford Peverell C of E Primary School

There will also be 'Drop In' sessions led by Mr Chown in each school for questions on an individual basis on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the following times:

9.00am -10.30 am Wilcombe Primary School

11.00am -1.00pm Sampford Peverell C of E Primary School

2.00pm - 4.00pm Hemyock Primary School

Written responses should be addressed to 'The Chair of Governors' of your school and must be received by **3.30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010**. A postbox for written responses will be provided in each school. On this occasion e-mails will not be accepted. A copy of this letter is available on each school's website.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Gary Chown  
Executive Headteacher  
Wilcombe and Sampford Peverell Primaries

Gill Peters  
Headteacher  
Hemyock Primary

Alison Rice  
Chair of Governors  
Wilcombe Primary School

Jim Pope  
Chair of Governors  
Sampford Peverell  
C of E Primary School

Hugh Whittaker  
Chair of Governors  
Hemyock Primary School