



Proposal to Federate Walmore Hill Primary School with Blakeney and Pillowell Community Schools Federation



The governing bodies of Walmore Hill Primary School and Blakeney and Pillowell Community Schools Federation have decided to consult with staff, parents and carers on a proposal to federate Walmore Hill School and Blakeney and Pillowell Community Schools Federation. This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposal.

This paper contains:

- A definition of the term 'Federation'.
- An outline of the proposal.
- A response form for you to complete and return.

We are holding the following consultation meetings for parents/carers and any other interested parties to have the opportunity to speak to governors and staff about the proposed federation.

Consultation Meetings		
Walmore Hill School Monday 12 th November 2:00pm	Blakeney School Tuesday 13 th November 5:00pm	Pillowell School Wednesday 14 th November 6:00pm

You are welcome to attend any of the above meetings.

The governing bodies of Walmore Hill Primary School and Blakeney and Pillowell Community Schools Federation have decided that they want to federate from 26th February 2019 and to be known as *Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools Federation*. This was a decision reached by both governing bodies at a meeting to discuss the federation on 9th July 2018 and 19th July 2018 respectively.

What is a Federation?

A Federation is where two or more schools share a governing body.

- Each school will remain independent; they will not merge into one school.
- Pupils will not change schools.
- The names of the schools will not change, nor will the uniforms.
- Admission arrangements will not change for the schools.
- The schools will continue to receive individual budgets.
- The schools will continue to serve their respective communities and retain their catchment areas.

What will happen to the current Governing Bodies?

If federation goes ahead, both governing bodies will be dissolved and a single governing body will be formed. In accordance with legislation the governing body will consist of 10 governors comprising of:

Governor	No.	Details
Staff Governor	1	Elected across the three schools
Parent Governors	2	Elected across the three schools
LA Governor	1	
Headteacher	1	
Co-opted Governors	7	
Total	12	

Vision for the Federation

To ensure our communities continue to be served by high quality local community-based primary schools

What are the benefits for our children?

- The opportunity to secure the highest possible standard of education for our children.
- A wider range of opportunities can be offered by sharing facilities and teacher expertise.
- Enhanced learning provision through joint educational visits, visitors, workshops and resources.
- To extend the opportunities available to all pupils so that they can access the benefits of a larger school within a small school setting.

Proposed Staffing Arrangements

At the outset the terms and conditions of all staff in each school would remain the same and could not be changed without agreement. It would be at the discretion of the Federated Governing Body to make new appointments, teaching and non-teaching, to the Federation or to individual schools. One of the benefits of schools wishing to federate is that it is possible to deploy staff across the Federation. Federation provides opportunity to work at either school within the federation with agreement.

How will Federation benefit our staff?

- To provide a challenging and rewarding environment in which to grow professionally, giving opportunities that might not otherwise exist in the current school setting.
- Staff will be able to share knowledge and expertise over a wider colleague base.
- Maximise the sharing of resources.

What are the benefits to parents and the local community?

- To secure the schools as vibrant and innovative centres of learning within their local communities, helping to protect the future of our schools and the villages in which they lie.
- Provide increased opportunities for a quality education for every child.

The next step...

This document is the start of a six week consultation period on the proposal to federate which will close on 30th November. The consultation process is a statutory part of the procedure for forming a federation between the two schools governed by regulation and the governing bodies of the schools proposing to federate must consult with:

- Gloucestershire Local Authority (FAO Head of Education)
- Staff paid to work at the schools
- Parents/carers of registered pupils at the schools
- Diocese (if appropriate)
- Foundation governors or trustees of any school that has a foundation
- Any other persons the governing bodies consider appropriate

A letter will be sent to the Secretary of State within 1 week of publication of this document informing of the start of the consultation by the governing bodies across the three schools.

A response slip is attached to this document. Please complete and place in the box at each school or send to:

The Clerk to the Governors at:

**Blakeney School, High St, Blakeney GL15 4AB,
Pillowell School, School Rd, Pillowell GL15 4QT
Walmore Hill School, Minsterworth GL2 8LA**

*Closing date for the return of the response forms is **Friday 30th November 2018***

Proposal to Federate

Blakeney and Pillowell Community Schools Federation and Walmore Hill School

Consultation Response Form

Please give us your views on the proposal for the federation. If you have any questions please include them in the comments box.

Name (optional).....

Comments :

(Please use the other side of this sheet if required)

Please tick the boxes that apply

A parent/carer of a child or children at one of the schools

Blakeney Pillowell Walmore Hill

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

A governor of one of the schools

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

A member of staff at one of the schools

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

A parent of a pre-school child

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Some other link to one of the schools

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Someone else with an interest – please give details

--

Please tick below in the appropriate box.

I support the federation	I do not support the federation	I am undecided

Please complete the form and place in the box at each school or return by post. Please return by Friday 30th November to:

The Clerk to the Governors at:

**Blakeney School, High St, Blakeney GL15 4AB,
Pillowell School, School Rd, Pillowell GL15 4QT
Walmore Hill School, Minsterworth GL2 8LA**

