



Consultation on a proposal to federate:

South Ferriby Primary School with
Winteringham Primary School

Consultation period 12 May 2017 to 25 June 2017



Dear Parent / Carer / Staff member

Over previous months South Ferriby Primary School has been working in partnership with Winteringham Primary School sharing best practice and development opportunities, and working together within the North Lincolnshire small schools network. Additionally Winteringham Primary School and the head teacher, Mrs Allwood supported South Ferriby Primary School with their improvement journey following the Ofsted inspection in December 2013, as well as working jointly on a number of projects. The arrangements have proved to have been extremely effective and of benefit to all the children in both schools.

As the partnership arrangements have been working effectively, consideration has subsequently been given to the possibility of formalising the collaborative arrangements between both schools. Furthermore, the need to explore this option in detail has become more apparent following the recent decision of South Ferriby's head teacher, Mrs Findlay to retire. The resignation of the South Ferriby's head teacher creates an opportunity to enhance the partnership through a more formal arrangement. Following detailed discussions with governors, and North Lincolnshire Council, we are proposing to create a single governing board (known as a 'hard federation') and Mrs Allwood would be formally appointed as the Executive Head Teacher of both schools.

We would like your views.

Whilst both governing boards support the federation option, we will not make any decision until we have heard your views. Therefore the purpose of this document is to explain more about the proposal and identify how you can contribute to the consultation. In order to ensure there is ample opportunity to discuss this proposal, we will be holding a number of consultation events. In addition, we would be grateful if you would read this document and let us know what you think about the proposal by completing the attached questionnaire and returning it in your child's book bag. Each individual is entitled to express their views and the questionnaire is also available online <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/consultations-and-petitions/current-consultations/>

The governing boards believe this is an excellent opportunity for both schools and a federated arrangement would be positive for children, parents and staff. At this stage, this is only a proposal and the governing boards will not be making any decisions until we have heard your views – so please let us know your thoughts.

If you want to learn more about our federation proposal we are hosting the following four drop in sessions, and you will be welcome to attend one that suits you:

- ❖ Winteringham Primary School: Tuesday 16 May from 8:00 to 9:30 (School Hall)
- ❖ South Ferriby Primary School: Tuesday 16 May from 3:30 to 6:00 (School Hall)
- ❖ South Ferriby Primary School: Thursday 18 May from 8:00 to 9:30 (School Hall)
- ❖ Winteringham Primary School: Thursday 18 May from 3:30 to 6:00 (School Hall)

We hope that you are able to attend one of the drop-in sessions. Should any of the above dates not be suitable for you, please contact your school office. Please also let us know your thoughts by completing the questionnaire at the back of this document.

Thank you for considering our proposal and we look forward to hearing your views.

Best wishes

Mrs L Allwood
Head Teacher

Mrs L Findlay
Head Teacher

Mrs J Duck
Chair of Governors
Winteringham Primary
School

Mr J Bailey
Chair of Governors
South Ferriby Primary
School



The Proposal

The governors of South Ferriby Primary School and Winteringham Primary School wish to create a formal partnership in the form of a 'hard federation' with a single governing board and single Executive Head Teacher. It is proposed this will take effect from 1 September 2017. The proposed name of the federation will be 'The Bridge Federation'.

What Does This Mean?

A federation is a formal arrangement where schools come together to share a single governing board. The schools retain their separate legal status and retain the same amounts of budget, individual admissions, performance tables and Ofsted inspections.

They will be able to work together to maximise funding, resources and expertise. The schools will also benefit financially by sharing staff and resources. Federation would bring the opportunity to secure the strong strategic leadership of an Executive Head and an effective single governing board to help improve all children's education and support future development of both schools.

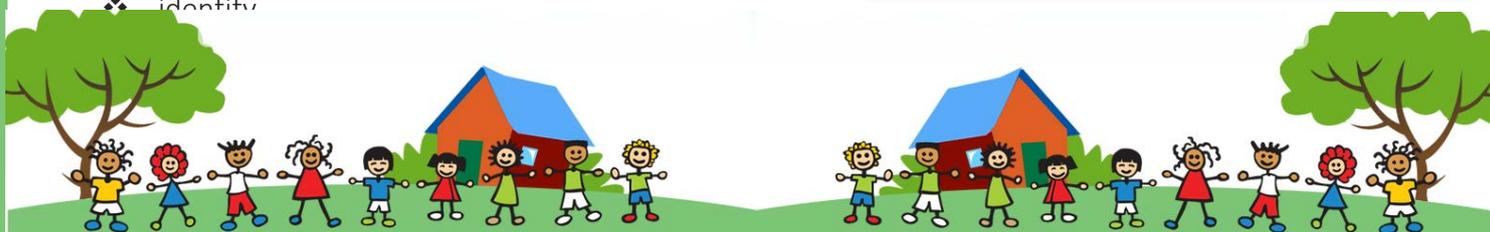
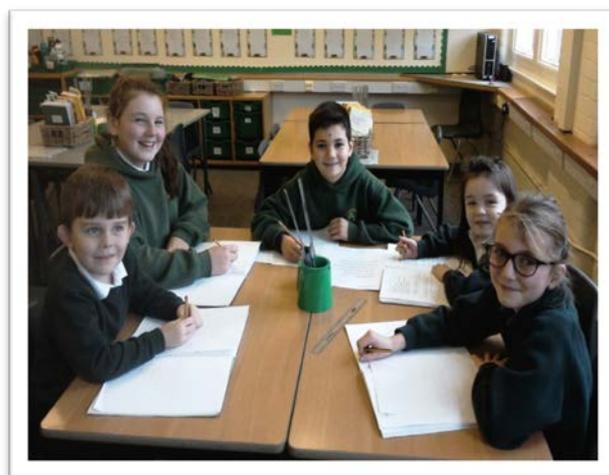
Both schools are located within the same area and admissions authority of North Lincolnshire. Under the federation proposal each school would keep its individual identity and would retain its own school uniform.

This proposal is supported by North Lincolnshire Council, both head teachers and all governors.

This is not a School Merger

It is important to note that we are **not** proposing that the schools merge; this is quite simply a 'leadership and governance partnership'. As such, a number of key arrangements will remain unchanged, which includes each school's:

- ❖ premises
- ❖ admission arrangements, including its catchment areas
- ❖ name
- ❖ uniform
- ❖ funding
- ❖ identity



What are the head teachers' views?

It is an exciting prospect for both schools to continue to work closely together through a Federation agreement, building on the development of a successful partnership that has grown over the past few years, whilst very importantly retaining each school's uniqueness of character and community.

Successes within this time have included South Ferriby Primary School progressing from 'Inadequate' to 'Good' (Ofsted June 2015) under the leadership of Mrs Findlay and the board of governors; and Winteringham Primary School being graded as 'Outstanding' (Ofsted October 2015) under the leadership of Mrs Allwood and the board of governors.



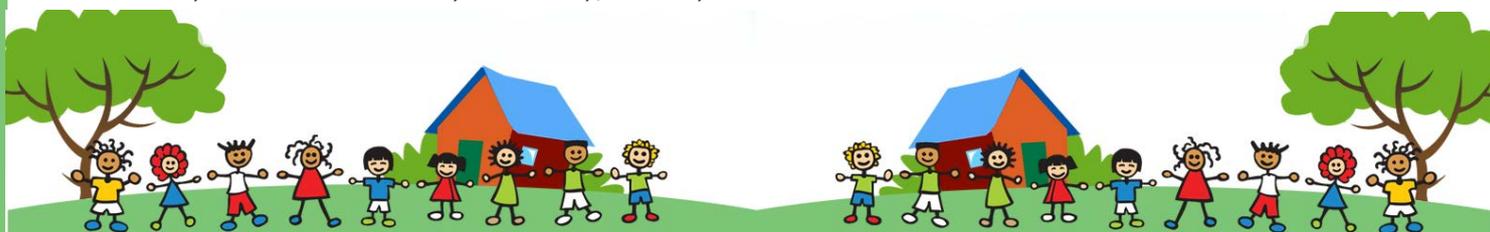
Staff from Winteringham and South Ferriby have shared best practice to impact positively on pupil outcomes across both schools. Working together within the North Lincolnshire small schools network, projects have been carried out for example joint working in lower and upper KS2, a maths reasoning project and writing moderation have all been successfully undertaken.

By this sharing of good practice across the schools, the children have benefitted from an improvement in standards as well as having access to different ways of learning. New and extended networks have been facilitated and we look forward to developing these further for pupils, staff, governors and parents alike ensuring that we are more 'outward facing' in the exciting and somewhat unpredictable world of education.

Whilst retaining each school's individuality, this collaboration has focused on raising standards and achievement through the sharing of resources, educational experiences and teaching expertise for the benefit of all our children. Financial benefits are evident, linked to 'economies of scale' so that each school, regardless of its size, is able to maximise its budget.

All in all, to date, the joint school partnership has most importantly seen improved outcomes for our children and we will continue to work relentlessly on this strong shared vision of 'providing the very best education - working stronger together, rather than harder alone'.

Mrs Lesley Allwood and Mrs Lynn Findlay, 12 May 2017



Why are we making this proposal?

This is a natural progression for both the schools and governing boards. The head teacher of Winterringham Primary School is an exceptional leader and promotes an 'I can do it' culture within the school enabling all children to achieve their full potential. The support Mrs Allwood has provided to South Ferriby Primary School as a Senior Leader in Education has proved invaluable and all the children have benefited from her expertise. We have already made a number of improvements, but we think that our proposal will provide the sustainability to build on these successes, long into the future. The key benefits of the federation proposal are outlined below:



Benefits for children:

- ✓ continuing stability of education at all schools
- ✓ greater flexibility for the use of all resources to best meet children's needs
- ✓ broader learning and social experiences for children to further improve educational outcomes
- ✓ enhanced learning opportunities at both schools arising from:
 - ❖ shared expertise of staff across the two schools
 - ❖ joint curriculum initiatives
 - ❖ shared resources and facilities

Benefits for parents/carers:

- ✓ continuing stability and high quality provision of education at both schools
- ✓ both schools can share resources
- ✓ greater educational opportunities for their children
- ✓ the partnership will be strengthened by the sharing of good practice
- ✓ the retention of high quality staff
- ✓ the federated schools will continue to work closely with the communities they serve

Benefits for staff:

- ✓ enhanced professional opportunities
- ✓ sharing teaching expertise and good practice across both schools
- ✓ increased training and development opportunities
- ✓ extend the reach and impact of the strongest school leaders and teachers

opportunities for aspiring leaders



For the governing board it will mean:

The new governing board will continue to be committed towards:

- ✓ raising standards
- ✓ promoting a shared caring, inclusive and 'I can do it' culture and ethos
- ✓ commitment to provide excellent educational opportunities across both schools
- ✓ shared responsibility to oversee both schools and their budgets
- ✓ setting clearly defined objectives and roles, that ensure the structure and focus of the federated governing board is sound
- ✓ drawing on the expertise and commitment of existing governors



The financial implications:

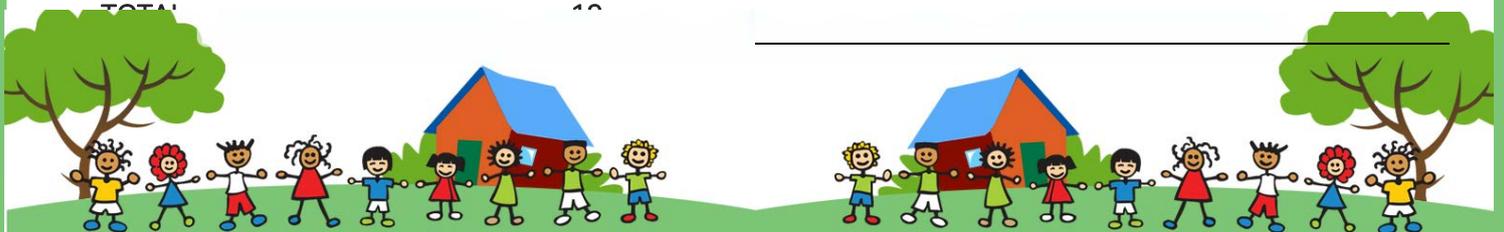
- ✓ both schools retain the same amount of budget as they did as individual schools, to be combined to reduce the level of administration
- ✓ the way in which the formula for each school's delegated budget share is calculated will be unaffected
- ✓ both schools will benefit from increased purchasing power, economies of scale and best value for procurement of contracts and services

Proposed New Governing Board Arrangements and Leadership Structure

Both governing boards are committed to retaining the expertise and skills that exist within the current governing board arrangements. Therefore the overarching principle is to ensure that the new governing board has sufficient vacancies to accommodate serving governors. Currently this equates to 19, but should any governor indicate that he/she no longer wishes to continue, the final membership could be lower.

The Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Allwood will oversee both schools. Additionally, there will be a Deputy Head Teacher in each school. The number and type of governor is detailed below:

Type	Number	Detail
Parent	2	To be elected by parents of both schools
Staff	1	To be elected by staff of both schools
Head Teacher	1	Appointed automatically
Local Authority	1	To be nominated by North Lincolnshire Council
Co-opted	14	Based on skills needed by the governing board



Consultation Questionnaire

Your views are important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire. If you would like to discuss this proposal before completing the questionnaire, please attend one of the drop-in sessions.

1) Do you **agree** or **disagree** our proposal (please tick one box)?

<p>I agree with the proposal to federate the schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>I disagree with the proposal to federate the schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <input type="checkbox"/> </p>
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Please explain why you **agree** or **disagree** with the proposal.

2) How many children do you have attending these schools?

	Winterringham Primary School	South Ferriby Primary School
Please indicate how many of your children attend these schools.		

3) Which box best describes you? (please tick as many boxes that apply)

	Winterringham Primary School	South Ferriby Primary School
I have children attending		
I am a member of staff at		
I am a governor at		
Other (please describe)		

Your name: (optional) Signature:

Your information will be summarised and a report will be published online. No individual's comments or information will be disclosed. Please return this form to your child's school or use our on-line questionnaire available via:

[/consultations-and-petitions/current-consultations/](#)

