

# A PROPOSAL TO FEDERATE

**John Ruskin Secondary School (Community)**

**Langdale CofE School (Voluntary Aided)**

**Coniston CE Primary School (Voluntary Controlled)**



Consultation period 8th November 2016 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017



Langdale CE Primary School, Cumbria  
Learning to be ourselves



## **Proposal**

The governing bodies of John Ruskin School, Langdale Church of England School and Coniston Church of England Primary School confirm that they are in agreement with a proposal to federate and are seeking the views of parents and carers, staff and other stakeholders on the idea of establishing a federation between the three schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The name of the new federation will be The Fells Federation.

Each school will maintain its individual character, status and ethos so that it can continue to best serve the community within which it is situated. Schools locally have successfully collaborated for a number of years, sharing staff, resources and supporting each other to improve and achieve the very best possible outcomes for their students. This proposal formalises that relationship between the schools and improves capacity for all the schools to meet the challenges of the future.

The senior teams and governing bodies of the three schools are behind the proposal to federate but ultimately we need your feedback to ensure our wider community is fully engaged in the process and has an opportunity to consider the benefits of more formal collaboration. Ultimately this is a proposal to enhance the pupils' school experience and attainment through shared resources and experiences which your feedback can influence.

**Governors wish to hear your views on this proposal – details of how you can make your representations are at the end of this report**

### **What is a federation?**

A federation involves a number of schools coming together under one governing body. It allows a different mindset to operate where education as a whole for the children of families in our communities can be considered from 3 to 16 in our community setting.

### **The advantages of federation**

There are lots of reasons why schools may want to work together within a federation. These include cost savings, improved opportunities for children and sharing of good practice between staff. Our governing bodies feel there will be the following particular benefits to federation:

- Access to better resources, including specialist staff
- Improved transition to secondary school
- Sharing of policies
- Sharing of support and resources for pupils with special educational needs
- Retaining good teaching staff
- Greater strength in school leadership

### **The vision for the federation**

The vision for The Fells Federation is for unique schools in a unique location to preserve their individual character and ethos to best serve the communities they lie at the heart of, whilst collaborating to ensure the best possible progress and future for our pupils.

## The constitution of the new governing body

The governing body shall consist of the following fifteen governors which includes the head teachers of the three schools, (the term of office in all cases being four years)

Category	No.	Name of school
Parent governors	2	
Staff governors, (inc.Head teachers)	1 (+3 Heads)	3 Head teachers plus one staff member
Head teachers	3	
LA governors	1	
Co-opted governors	3	
Foundation governors	5	2 CP
		3 LP

The following statutory regulations have been implemented when constituting the governing body:

- *The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 only allows for 2 parent governors and no allowance to stipulate from which school;*
- *The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 only allows for 1 staff governor and no allowance to stipulate from which school;*
- *The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012, introduced the category of co-opted governors, the total number of co-opted governors who are eligible to be elected as staff governors must not exceed one third of the total membership of the governing body.*

In addition each school has the option to appoint associate members drawn from their local communities and operating at a local level. These governors would not have voting rights but would be drawn from their local communities that have particular skills that would benefit and support the leadership of that school's local committee.

### Staffing arrangements in the federation

Staffing arrangements will remain as they are and each school will retain its own head teacher.

### Admissions authorities in the federation

The admissions authority for John Ruskin School and Coniston Primary School remains the Local Authority

The admissions authority for Langdale Primary School will be the new governing body of the federation, (due to this school's Voluntary Aided status)

### The consultation process

Governors welcome representation on the attached form that can be dropped off at any of the three schools involved.

Consultation evenings will also take place at the following locations, and parents are welcome to attend any location where the time suits them.

Consultation meeting 1	Consultation meeting 2
Coniston Primary School	Langdale Primary School
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 6pm	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 6pm

## FEEDBACK FORM ON THE PROPSAL FOR THE FELLS FEDERATION

Please return this form to the school office of one of the three schools involved in this proposal before the closing date of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Name of person responding: \_\_\_\_\_

What best describes your relationship with the schools (please tick)?

	John Ruskin School	Coniston Primary School	Langdale Primary School
Parent / carer of pupil			
Member of staff			
Other (please specify below)			

Are you in favour of federation between the 3 schools: YES / NO

Comments

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