

Federation – Information for parents

What is Federation?

- A federation is a legal governance structure where between two and six schools share a single governing body.
- The decision to federate is made either by the school governing body or by the Local Authority.
- **All schools within the federation remain open within their communities; retain their budget, individuality, their own name, school uniform and ethos, and will be inspected individually by Estyn**

What advantages does federation offer the pupils?

A Federation can bring many benefits –

- continue to have access to teaching expertise, team sports, wider curriculum expertise and a wider choice of after curricular or out of school activities and clubs
- continue to share best practice, preparation materials and resources
- continue to provide the best social opportunities for pupils
- continue to plan exceptional opportunities for the pupils when transitioning
- continue to share and develop knowledge and skills
- schools that federate stay in their communities and keep their individual identity
- adding to the overall benefit, welfare and achievement of all pupils

How is federation going to work?

- There will be little change in day to day school arrangements. How a federation is structured and would operate will be decided by the governing body and the headteacher. These people are best placed to ensure the federation activities and arrangements match the needs of all the schools.

Do the teachers and children move from school to school?

- Children and existing staff are not obliged to travel to other school sites within the federation.

Is federation about financial savings?

- No. It is about schools pooling resources in order to continue to maintain performance and excellent standards of attainment and achieving more for the children whether that is through providing access to opportunities and facilities children would not normally be able to access, or jointly funding, for example, a full time teacher or support teachers.

Does federation mean that our school will receive less money from the local Authority?

- No. The way in which an individual school's budget is calculated is not affected by federation - each school in the federation should continue to receive its own budget based on the number of registered pupils at the school plus any other factors. However, schools will be able to pool or share their budgets. For example, if the schools wished to employ a full time teacher or to purchase or upgrade sports equipment they would each contribute a share of the costs from their budget.

What are the financial benefits of federation?

Federation can increase the school's ability to achieve higher standards. Some of the benefits include:

- sharing the costs of purchasing goods and facilities etc.
- purchasing to achieve economies of scale and avoiding duplication
- More opportunities e.g. release the headteacher to plan strategically across the federation

Are parent governors elected by the parents from their school only or from parents across all schools in the federation?

- Each school must have at least one parent governor elected by the parents at that school (or appointed by the governing body if no parent is standing for election), **but it is not permitted for a school to have more than two parent governors.**
- If it is decided that all schools have two parent governors, and if no parent is standing for election in a particular school, or if only one stands, the governing body may appoint a federal parent governor.

What evidence do you have that Federations are successful?

- A document from the Welsh Government sets out several case studies that outline how schools have benefited from the federation process. An Ofsted report was published in England in 2011 'Leadership of more than one School - An evaluation of the impact of federated schools'. The report states, "in every federation visited, the fact that the schools were federated was a factor which contributed to the improvement."

How will admission applications for pupils be administrated?

- Admissions will not be affected - parents will continue to apply for each school separately and the Local Authority (Cyngor Gwynedd) will continue to determine admissions.

For more information regarding the federation process visit the Welsh Government website by following the link below: (Federation process of maintained schools in Wales)

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/fundingschools/school-governance/federation-of-maintained-schools/?lang=en>