

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and other Stakeholders,

Following on from letters and meetings held earlier in the academic year we are now in a position to forward to you the document containing the proposal to form a federation between Bradley CE (VC) Primary School and Brailsford CE (VC) Primary School. This proposal shows that the Governors from both schools have carefully considered how best to secure a bright and sustainable future for both schools. This is the start of a seven week process of consultation which ends on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

We hope the attached proposal contains all the relevant information to help you formulate questions or comments that the Governing Boards will consider before coming to a final decision (which is then subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education). We would like to summarise why we think this development is in the best interests of both schools:

- Both schools have been working successfully in collaboration since September under Mrs Foulds while retaining their uniqueness.
- They have many similarities - small, rural, Church of England Schools feeding mainly into Queen Elizabeth's in Ashbourne. They are also physically close which helps to develop closer links between staff and pupils as well as having very similar Ofsted outcomes.
- Both are vulnerable in the current educational climate and don't believe that becoming an Academy or part of a Multi-Academy Trust is the best way forward to preserve their individual identities.
- Both will be very vulnerable financially as the Government changes the way it funds schools in the near future and by sharing a Head each school will be more financially viable. It can also help through bulk-buying and sharing trips to cut transport costs which releases more money to be spent on the pupils.
- Governors believe that federation will help secure high-quality staff, both through more career opportunities for existing staff and therefore better retention, but also a far more attractive offer when recruiting new employees.

The Governing Boards have spent many hours ensuring this is the right move forward for both schools and now are asking for your views which they will then carefully consider. The proposal document sets out how you can be involved in the process, including how you can make written comments. It also invites you to separate meetings in both schools when you can come and express your views or seek answers to queries you may have. These will take place at

Bradley - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm - 7.15pm

Brailsford - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30pm - 8.15pm

Governors from each school will attend their individual meetings to collect your views which will then be taken forward to a joint Governing Board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The final decision will be taken by each separate Governing Board meeting in July after which the outcome will be announced.

Yours sincerely

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Alison Cresswell  
Chair of Governors

Brailsford CE Primary School

Margaret Matthews  
Chair of Governors

Bradley CE Primary School