SILVERTON SCHOOL

Exe Valley Federation
CHALLENGE DISCOVER SUCCEED

Friday 26th April 2019

Dear Members of the Parish Council,

Since September 2018 Silverton C of E Primary School and the Exe Valley Federation have been working together in a Management Partnership. This has given all the schools the opportunity to work collaboratively and to share best practice in the classroom and beyond. Having previously considered a wide range of options, the Governors of Silverton School and the Exe Valley Federation have decided to consult stakeholders on expanding the Federation to include Silverton from September 2019. Both governing boards recognise many potential benefits for all five schools.

The Exe Valley Federation currently comprises four village schools [Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Newton St Cyres and Thorverton] which have been successfully working together for the last seven years. The Federation is led by John Jolliffe, who is an experienced Executive Headteacher with a proven track record of school improvement. A federation model consists of a single governing board with each school retaining its own unique identity, individual budgets, Ofsted inspections and pupil performance targets. The current admissions processes will remain the same.

We want to take this opportunity to explain our reasons behind this proposal, and offer you the chance to respond. The benefits of our proposed federation would give further opportunities for collaboration and ensure that Silverton remains sustainable for the future. For the existing schools in the Exe Valley Federation there are benefits from working with another school through sharing good practice and achieving greater economies of scale. In addition to this, we see the following benefits for the schools:

- Shared set of educational values
- Common vision and desire to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Recognition of the importance of the unique nature of each school and the Church Schools' heritage
- Commitment to working within the existing structure of overall leadership and local management
- Recognition of the balance of consistency with individuality
- A robust approach to school self-evaluation and realistic matching of expertise and needs
- Financially sustainable organisation for the future

There are also significant advantages for children:

- Opportunities to participate in joint sporting, music outdoor learning and arts events
- Opportunities to work with similar interest groups, both academic and social
- Shared residential visits from Year 3 to Year 6 at a range of venues
- Enhanced transition to secondary school through working as part of a larger group of children

In addition, the Exe Valley Federation staff have also found the following advantages of working together:

- Shared continuing professional development opportunities
- Opportunities to share good practice and build knowledge and expertise
- Career development opportunities within the Federation
- Developing middle leadership experience across schools
- Developing effectiveness of preschools and enhancing transition to Reception
- Effective moderation and monitoring through shared understanding

The governing boards are proposing that the Federation would start on 1st September 2019. Mr John Jolliffe, the Executive Headteacher, will spend a part of his time each week at Silverton. He is currently committed to spending at least a day each week in the four schools. This includes leading assemblies, attending school events and teaching for

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Executive Headteacher: Mr J Jolliffe B.Sc MA

one afternoon each week. Mrs Adnams will become the Head of School at Silverton but will retain a high level of autonomy, the same as the level of responsibility held by the other Heads of School in the federation.

The federation would have one governing board composed of representatives from each school community. In line with the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2016, the proposed governing board would comprise:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Executive Headteacher
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 3 Foundation Governors (including Ex-officio)
- 5 Co-opted Governors

Together this group of 13 people will take overall responsibility for all schools within the federation. Each school within the federation has two or three 'home school' governors who lead Learning Walks and spends time in their school to get to know the staff and children there. The election of parent and staff governors will take place at the end of the consultation period if both governing boards agree to proceed with the new federation.

The Governors of Silverton School and the Exe Valley Federation have set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the community, the Local Authority, the Diocese and other key partners. The consultation process will last six weeks, starting from Monday 29th April 2019. Governors would welcome your views and comments and invite you to any of the following meetings with Mr Jolliffe and both Chairs of Governors:

Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 5.00pm at Silverton C of E Primary School
Thursday 9th May 2019 at 7.00pm at Thorverton C of E Primary School

Staff are welcome to come to these meetings but additional opportunities for staff to express their views will be arranged during the consultation period. If you are unable to attend the above meetings and would like to discuss this proposal with Mr John Jolliffe, Executive Headteacher, or your Chair of Governors, please contact your school office and make an appointment in the usual way.
Written responses should be addressed to the Chair of Governors of your school and must be received by Tuesday 18th June at 3.30pm. For all schools these can be emailed to **federationconsultation1@gmail.com** or in writing c/o the Clerk to the Governors at your child's school or handed in to the School Office at any of the five schools addressed to 'The Chair of Governors'.
It is the Governors who will make the final decision, drawing upon a broad evidence base including the views of all stakeholders. Each governing board from each organisation considering federation takes its own decision. As with any governing board decision this is a simple majority vote taken at a governing board meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you and will, of course, keep you fully informed regarding our final decision on the 18th June 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Smith
Chair of Governors Silverton C of E Primary School

Jackie Enright
Chair of Governors Exe Valley Federation