

The Thundridge and Tonwell St Marys' Church of England Federation

School Federations – What are they?

- A federation is where a number of maintained schools come together under one governing board.
- The schools' individual governing boards are disbanded and a new single over-arching governing body is formed.
- This becomes the accountable body for all the schools and sets the strategic direction for the group.

Consultation Results

- There was no significant challenge to the consultation.
- There has been lots of positive feedback.
- Therefore the Federation will go ahead as planned on the 1st April 2022.

Next Steps

- At the beginning of next year we will need to have parent and staff elections – if you think you would be interested in joining the board, please speak to the Chair of Governors.

Recruiting an Executive Headteacher

- The role of Executive Headteacher has been advertised.
- Interview date has been set for the beginning of December.
- You will be informed of any planned change of leadership.
- This role will not begin until the 1st April, however, it is likely that anyone appointed to that role will want to begin working with both schools early in the new year, to identify positive joining up opportunities.

Benefits of Joining Up and Federation

- We are beginning to see positive effects already!
- We have already had a shared visit from Montell Douglas and entered very successful joint Cross Country teams



Benefits for All

- More opportunity to employ specialist staff
- Efficiencies, joint services – better use of public money
- Better recruitment, succession planning & retention of staff
- Stronger governance (especially with well federated structures)

What will be the same?

(It is up to you how much we join up!)

- Uniforms etc. will stay the same.
- Schools are inspected by Ofsted separately.
- Funding for both schools is separately, though schools can choose to fund joint projects.
- Admissions for the schools will be the same.

Governance

- *Working as a governor in a federation... challenges you to think of a bigger picture and take in a different perspective... you have to remember that you are a governor of the federation and not a governor of a school in the federation'.*
- *Governing Matters, NGA*

Any Questions?