



Monday 26th April 2021

Federation Consultation

The Proposal

West Hove Infant School (WHIS) and Hove Junior School (HJS) have long a history of working closely together to share best practice to enhance the educational provision at both schools, and provide an environment where all children can reach their full potential. The schools pride themselves in being creative, inclusive, and caring.

The governing boards of both schools propose joining together in a **federation** to further enable strong collaboration and provide continuous learning provision from reception to year 6, underpinned by a common vision, ethos, and values.

A **federation** is a group of two or more schools that have made a formal commitment to work together under a single governing board. Each school retains its individual identity, but it enables the schools to work together more efficiently and sustainably to raise standards, improve school services and increase opportunities for pupils and staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know that, in addition to this proposal, we are in discussion with Brighton and Hove City Council about how best to use the sites at Holland Road and Connaught Road. We feel that sharing school buildings is opportunity to provide all-through learning (reception to year 6) as well as provide budgetary efficiencies. We believe that, as we examine options for the schools over the coming months, being a federated board will facilitate this process. We will share more information about future plans as they become available. It is important that you are aware of these discussions and that we believe that being a federated board will support us this process.

Any future changes will be part of a separate consultation with parents, the community and our staff and there will be many opportunities to ask questions and share your views.

What are the advantages of federating?

Joining together as a federation will enable us to create an excellent infant-junior teaching provision that builds on the strengths, values and ethos of the two schools. It will help us to maintain high standards and ensures that children continue to make good or better progress from their starting points in reception through to year 6.

It will provide us with further opportunities for sharing expertise, training, and resources to enrich all aspects of the school community, teaching, and learning and social and emotional wellbeing.



Timeline

You can find more detail about this on the [WHIS](#) or [HJS](#) websites.

26th April – 11th June 2021	6-week consultation period with key stakeholders
14th June 2021	Governing boards of both schools meet separately to consider results of consultation and decide whether to proceed with federation.
June-July 2021	If the decision is made to go ahead, a new federated governing board will be set up, including election of governors.
13th September 2021	New federation would take effect under new joint governing board.

Your say

The Governing Boards of West Hove Infant School and Hove Junior School are embarking on a public consultation to gather the opinions of parents/carers, staff and the wider community about our proposal to federate.

You can find the formal proposal on our websites at [WHIS](#) or [HJS](#) and share your thoughts with us [here](#). Alternatively, if you would like to complete a form offline and send it to you us you will find one with this letter.

We look forward to receiving your views by **Midday on 11th June 2021**.

Kind regards,

Julia Wolage
Chair of Governors – West Hove Infant

Lisa Marshall/Louise Wilkinson
Chairs of Governors – Hove Junior School

Wendy Harkness
Headteacher – West Hove Infant School

Maddie Southern
Headteacher – Hove Junior School

FAQs

What is a federation?

A federation is formed when two schools remain separate in law but are managed together by a single governing board. WHIS and HJS will remain as separate organisations, but with the management of the two schools brought together under the supervision of a single governing board. The arrangement would build on the strengths of the two schools.

What would be different from September 2021?

The day-to-day experience for parents and children would change very little. Schools in federations continue to be individual schools with their own character. The names of the schools, school uniform arrangements and identities of WHIS and HJ would continue as before. Each school would retain its own budget.

Will there still be two Headteachers?

Yes, we will continue to have two Head Teachers: Mrs Harkness at WHIS and Mrs Southern at HJS.

Will the admissions policy change?

No. The admissions policies of both schools remain unchanged by this proposal.

What is the timescale for implementation?

The timescale for federation is the end of this academic year, with the new governing board assuming control of both schools in September 2021.

Will there continue to be separate Ofsted inspections for each school?

Yes. Both schools will continue to be inspected individually. Ofsted is increasingly aware of, and interested in, the role that federations play in improving standards and may decide to inspect the schools at the same time to form a rounded picture of the federation's work.

How would the Governing Board change?

On the proposed federation date of 13th September 2021, the existing governing boards of WHIS and HJS would be dissolved and a new governing board appointed. The new, single governing board would have strategic oversight for both schools and be responsible for their work, standards, and outcomes. The new board will consist of the Head Teachers from both schools, 1 staff governor, 2 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, and 10 Co-opted governors. In total there will be 16 governors on the federated board.

When can you tell us more about the plans for the future of Connaught Road and Holland Road sites?

We are working closely with the local authority to determine the options and timelines available to us and will share this with you as soon as we can. We understand it is important for us to provide as much information and notice as possible and will ensure that we do so.