



Post Consultation Report on the Federation proposal

between

Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary School

and

Ellesmere Port Christ Church, Church of England Primary School

1. Introduction

Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary School and Ellesmere Port Christ Church, Church of England Primary School have recently completed a period of consultation in relation to the Federation between both schools. The consultation period began on the 19th April 2021 and ended on 7th June 2021. The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequent School Governance federations amendments which provide the statutory legislation for federation.

2. Publication of Consultation

The consultation began with the publication of the consultation document on 19th April 2021. Hard copies of the document were available via the two schools (on request) and letters were issued via email to staff and parents/carers informing them of the proposals. In addition, a number of organisations were also sent the consultation proposal. The table below sets out the list of recipients who received a copy of, or were directed to the consultation document. A link to a questionnaire via survey monkey was also available for completion by all.

<i>Name/Organisation</i>	<i>Number of Recipients</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers of children at Bishop Wilson Primary School (including any known parents and carers of those children due to start in September 2021) 	146
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers of children at Ellesmere Port Christ Church Primary School (including any known parents and carers of those children due to start in September 2021) 	176
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Head Teacher 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of School at Bishop Wilson Primary School 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of School at Ellesmere Port Christ Church Primary School 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff employed at Bishop Wilson Primary School 	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff employed at Ellesmere Port Christ Church Primary School 	27



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Trade Unions for both schools • Volunteers helping at each school • Providers of wrap around care • Governors of Bishop Wilson CofE Primary School • Governors of Ellesmere Port CofE Primary School • Trustees of any trust relating to the schools; • the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the catchment areas of both schools • Puddington Parish Council; • The Secretary of State • Chester Diocese; • Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority • Local Schools • local MP and Local Authority Councillor; and • Burton Residents Association. 	<p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>1 (same company for both schools)</p> <p>9</p> <p>13</p> <p>1 trustee board</p> <p>2 PCCs</p> <p>1 Parish Council</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>8</p> <p>3</p> <p>1 Association</p>
--	--

3. Consultation Meetings - Staff

As part of the consultation process, a staff meeting for each of the schools was organised by the Chair of Governors and Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority HR lead. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meetings were held virtually via zoom.

The issues raised at the meetings were:

- To consider the staff representation on the governing board to ensure that representation could be encouraged from the staff at both schools.

4. Consultation Meetings - Children

The children were encouraged to ask any questions and share ideas that they may have.

The following matters were discussed:



	Bishop Wilson	Christ Church
Do you know what other school we work with?	All said Christ Church and St Oswalds. Less said Capenhurst.	All said Bishop Wilson but some also said Capenhurst, St.Oswalds and one in Africa!
How do we work with Bishop Wilson/Christ Church?	Assemblies – we get to see other classes and have an assembly with Mrs Friend at the same time. Shared ethos work.	Assemblies, Worships, Projects, Values Day, meetings, Christian Group, Zooms, Activities. Mrs Friend has to go and see what they do and check they are doing it properly.
What do you like about working with children from other schools?	Making new friends, sharing learning ideas, helping each other, listening to each other. It was great when children got to go and do assemblies in the different schools.	Meeting new people and making friends, seeing people from different areas, seeing how they work and how we work, seeing similarities and differences, learning new things from them.
Any questions?	None	All said nothing they don't like and none had any questions.
Other comments	Can we do joint gardening projects with Christ Church?	I did ask them if they found it ok with Mrs Friend sometimes being at Bishop Wilson or if different. all said it is fine.

5. Consultation Feedback

During the course of the consultation period, there were 12 responses to the consultation document. The table below demonstrates the format of response used by stakeholders.

Format of Response	Number of Responses Received
Email	4
Form Completion (handed into school)	2
Survey Monkey	6

6. Consultation Feedback and Responses

Out of the 12 responses to the consultation, the following comments were received:

I support the proposal for federation	8
---------------------------------------	---



I do not support the proposal for federation	2
I am not sure	1
Did not answer any option	1

- *Parochial Church Council (PCC) Responses to include individual members of the PCC*

We feel that it is extremely positive and a credit to Helen Friend and all the staff at Christ Church that Bishop Wilson have chosen them as the school they wish to partner with. We have a number of ex-teachers on the PCC who all feel this will help the staff development at both schools, as they use individual strengths to support each other. Sharing ideas and resources definitely provides more flexibility and is the way forward. This can only help the education of the children and as such the PCC whole heartily support the federation proposal and we look forward to working with you.

Merging of Resources is a good way to provide good education across both schools on tight budgets.

I agree with the proposal. Despite the formality of federation, both schools need to maintain a level of autonomy and local identity.

Excellent proposal for pupils, staff and governance at both schools.

- *Parent/Carer Responses*

I feel that Christ Church currently works perfectly as a school, both staff and children appear to be very happy, I know my daughter certainly is. At Christ Church, children are individual children and not a number or stat and I would be concerned that a Federation between Christ Church and Bishop Wilson may potentially affect this.

This has been working well at Christchurch since implemented. As long as the merge doesn't involve any changes to the school at present, I think making it official will not cause any issue to either school.

- *Staff Response*

The only way for small schools to survive and flourish is as part of a federation of schools. This is very clearly indicated by financial indicators. Furthermore, I believe that small schools and especially small rural/CofE schools are a very important part of any county's schools places offering, as they meet the needs of the children more difficult to meet in larger schools in some cases. Small schools are vital to the future of rural communities, in my opinion, and this is a further reason for my support of federation.

- *Response from the Governance Team on behalf of the Secretary of State*

I noted, looking through the proposal document that it states '2 Parent Governors (one from each school)' and I wished to draw your attention to the School Governance (Constitution Federations) (Amendment) regulations 2016 supersedes the 2012 Regulation in regards to parent governors, substituting 'one parent governor elected or appointed...in respect of each school in the federation' to 'two parent governors.'

7. FGB Decision



An Extraordinary FGB Meeting has been scheduled for the 16th June 2021 to commence at 4.30 p.m. Both governing boards will attend together to receive the consultation report.

The boards will then hold individual meetings to vote on the following outcomes:

- (a) to proceed with the proposals for federation as published;
- (b) to proceed with the proposals for federation with such modifications as the governing board consider appropriate; or
- (c) not to proceed with the proposals for federation.

Chair of Governors
Bishop Wilson C of E Primary School
Puddington Lane, Burton
Neston, Cheshire
CH64 5SE

Chair of Governors
Christ Church C of E Primary School
Deeside, Whitby
Ellesmere Port
CH65 6TQ