



Denby CE (VA) First School  
Goose Green  
Upper Denby  
Huddersfield  
HD8 8UN

Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First  
School  
Butts Road  
Farnley tyas  
Huddersfield  
HD4 6TZ

Thurstonland Endowed (VC)  
First School  
Marsh Hall Lane  
Thurstonland  
Huddersfield  
HD4 6XD

**Consultation about the proposed federation of  
Denby CE (VA) First School, Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First School and  
Thurstonland (VC) First School from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

The Governing Bodies of Denby CE (VA) First School, Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First School and Thurstonland (VC) First School have been exploring the possibility of running the schools as a federation. As a result of that work the three Governing Bodies have decided that there would be significant benefits for the pupils, families and staff at the schools to form such a federation and are now seeking the views of all those with an interest in the schools by holding a consultation.

This consultation document explains the reasons behind the decision and provides further information. By publishing this document, the Governing Bodies are inviting your comments and feedback in advance of making a final decision on the proposed federation. The consultation will run for six weeks from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015**. It is during this period that all stakeholders, including parents, carers, staff, other members of the community, other schools, the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and the Council have the opportunity to consider the proposals and provide their thoughts and feedback.

**What is federation?**

A federation is where one governing body takes responsibility for more than one school. Under such an arrangement each school retains its own: unique identity, legal status, budget allocation, admissions, performance tables and Ofsted inspection. Church schools also have an additional Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Having one governing body means that common policies and employment practices can be used. The federated governing body includes representatives from the current governing bodies of each school.

The proposals to federate are in line with the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Governance Constitution (England) Regulations 2012 and the 2015 amendments.

**Why is this federation being proposed?**

The resignation of the headteacher at Denby CE (VA) First School to move to a larger school and the retirement of the headteacher of Thurstonland (VC) First School on 31 December 2015, has provided the opportunity for the three governing bodies to come together in the confident belief that Mrs Claire Minogue is the person to lead the three schools forward as the headteacher across the proposed federation thus formalising the existing partnership between the three schools.

The proposed federation will have a single headteacher working across the three schools. The federation governing body will work closely with the headteacher to ensure a strong leadership structure, with senior leaders based in each school.

There are many reasons why a federation is being considered for Denby CE (VA) First School, Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First School and Thurstonland (VC) First School, the most important being enhancing educational provision for the children and young people in the schools. The other benefits created by a federation include:

- the sharing and pooling of resources allowing the children to gain access to a wider and more varied range of learning experiences and materials
- a wider expertise and knowledge base which will enhance continuity and progression in teaching and learning for all pupils
- further enhancing the high pastoral standards provided at each school and enable increased opportunities for extra-curricular activities
- more effective leadership and management, including business management, at a time of increasing pressure on small school budgets thus enabling the three schools to continue to serve their local community with increased sustainability
- greater opportunities for staff to develop new skills, gain experience and the opportunity for further development including strengthening of leadership
- shared governance knowledge and expertise leading to the development of common policies and long-term strategic planning.

#### **Will the same teachers teach in our school?**

Yes, the teachers will work for the same schools that they work for now. In the future there will be opportunities for staff to work across the three schools, particularly where this will benefit the children, but the teachers will not have to keep changing from one school to another.

Claire Minogue will be the headteacher across the federation. All other staff will continue to be employed in their substantive roles in their current school. Temporary arrangements will continue and be reviewed in line with current policies and procedures. In the future staff may be appointed to the federation. Federation will provide increased opportunities for the development of senior leadership posts.

#### **Will all three school buildings stay open?**

Yes, they will. This will ensure future sustainability for all schools as there will be increased opportunities to share resources across the three schools to benefit the pupils in their learning and development.

#### **Will the pupils swap between schools?**

No, the children will still go to their current school, just like they do at the moment. However, a federation will mean increased opportunities to work more closely with pupils from each of the other two schools for a specific purpose.

#### **What difference will it make to my child?**

There will be very little noticeable difference for you or your child on a day to day basis as all three schools will continue to provide a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum for your children with lots of activities aimed at enhancing their learning.

The individual ethos and character of each school will be maintained.

## How will the Governing Body be structured?

It is very important that the federated governing body consists of parents and staff representation from all three schools, as well as the Diocese, and the Local Authority, so that the strong governance that exists currently at each school is maintained.

It is proposed that there are 18 governors on the federated governing body and to comply with legislation will be structured as follows:

- 1 Head Teacher
- 1 elected staff governor
- 1 LA governor
- 3 elected parent governors
- 2 co-opted governors
- 10 Foundation governors

We will ensure that there is teaching and support staff representation as well as equal parent representation from all three schools. It is anticipated that governors from the three existing governing bodies will make up the new governing body, but should that not be possible new governors would be recruited as appropriate.

## Will admissions to the schools change?

Admissions to all three schools will continue to be under the current arrangements i.e. the Governing Body is the admissions authority for Denby First School and Kirklees Council is the admissions authority for Farnley Tyas and Thurstonland Schools. Parents and carers will continue to apply for a place at the school of their choice in the usual manner.

## Consultation events

We have arranged information sessions where you can find out more and contribute your comments. Representatives from the three Governing Bodies will be present at each event. Every session is open to families of pupils attending any of the three schools and members of all three communities.

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Denby CE (VA) First School	6.00 pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Thurstonland (VC) First School	4.00 pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First School	6.00 pm

In addition to these events there will be opportunities for staff to consult with governors.

## What happens next?

You have until **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015** to express your views. Once the consultation has finished, the three Governing Bodies will together review all comments before making a final decision whether to federate. The table below shows the next steps involved.

Activity	Date
Consultation (6 term time weeks)	7 <sup>th</sup> September – 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Governing Bodies meet to consider feedback and make final decision	20 October 2015
Proposed conversion date*	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016

\*subject to the Governing Bodies' decision

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please respond:

**By post:** To any of the schools marked 'federation' –

Denby CE (VA) First School  
Goose Green  
Upper Denby  
Huddersfield  
HD8 8UN

Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First  
School  
Butts Road  
Farnley tyas  
Huddersfield  
HD4 6TZ

Thurstonland Endowed (VC)  
First School  
Marsh Hall Lane  
Thurstonland  
Huddersfield  
HD4 6XD

**OR**

**In person:** At one of the consultation information sessions or hand it in the school office of any of the schools.

**OR**

**By email:** You can also take part in the consultation by sending an email with your feedback to [c.minogue@denbyfirstschool.uk](mailto:c.minogue@denbyfirstschool.uk)

The closing date for comments is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015**.

### Consultation response form

Do you support the proposed federation between Denby CE (VA) First School, Farnley Tyas CE (VC) First School and Thurstonland (VC) First School?

#### About you

This section asks you for some information that will help us to analyse the results of the survey and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information you provide. I am a: (Please tick ✓ and complete all those that apply to you)

Parent/ carer

Your child's/children's school/s:

---

Member of staff

Your school:

---

Pupil

Your school:

---

Governor

Your school:

---

Local Resident

Please tell us:

---

Other

Please tell us:

My response to the proposed federation is:

Please tick ✓ one of the boxes

Yes       No       Don't Know

Why have you decided that is your view? Tell us about it along with anything else you want us to consider

**If you have a question about the proposed federation and would like a written response, please write it here and include your name and contact details so that we can provide you with an answer.** We will publish answers to the questions we receive on the school websites. If you don't have access to the internet please contact the school office and we will arrange for you to have a paper copy.

My question is....

  
  
  
  
  
  

Name-----

Address/email address-----  
-----  
-----