



27th February 2025

**Consultation on the Proposal to Federate  
Barton Primary School and Godshill Primary School.**

The governors of Barton and Godshill Primary Schools have been exploring ways to build on their existing close cooperation, working even more closely together to provide the best possible education for the children in both schools.

For a number of years both schools have been working in close partnership under the leadership of Mr Mark Snow. Staff have worked closely formulating policy and procedures for their schools, have shared professional development opportunities for staff across both schools and helped support raising standards and progress within each other's school. There is a wide range of evidence showing that both schools have benefited from this informal partnership.

The governors of both schools have been exploring the idea of federation in order to formalise this partnership. We would like to enter into consultation to seek the views of interested parties in relation to both Barton and Godshill Primary Schools. We have developed this proposal to explain what federation is and what it might look like for our school communities. In this document we have highlighted some of the more significant issues to assist parents, members of staff and other interested parties to respond to the consultation process.

This consultation process has been designed to help us find out what you think about the proposal, and we would like to hear your views. The outcome will be reported to both Governing Boards on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Taking this information into account, both Governing Boards will then make the decision whether or not to federate. Please be assured the decision to federate will only be taken if we are sure it is in the best interests of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Ursula Hutchinson  
Chair of Governors  
Primary School

Di Barker  
Chair of Governors Barton  
Godshill Primary School

## **What is a federation?**

The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 allows for two or more schools to join together under a single Governing Board - this is a federation. The single Governing Board can share resources and expertise across the schools to find new ways of improving leadership, teaching and standards. If federation proceeds then the new Governing Board would appoint an Executive Headteacher (EHT) with responsibility for co-ordinating the partnership activities of the two schools, from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. BPS and GH have been working in a similar way to a federation for several years.

**Governors of both schools are clear that this is NOT a proposal to combine and create one school.**

Each school will keep its own unique identity and character whilst sharing an Executive Headteacher and Governing Board.

## **Why do we believe that the proposal will benefit children?**

As governors we believe that the proposal will improve the quality of education for the children attending both of our schools. Federations of primary schools can offer more opportunities to benefit all children in the following ways:

Greater staff expertise and interests increases the potential to build on the existing exciting and rich curriculum provision. It strengthens both schools' capacity to meet the identified needs of children.

Federation makes staff recruitment and retention more attractive by creating increased opportunities for staff to develop others and to take on leadership roles. So both schools benefit from high quality staff improving the outcomes for our children.

Opportunities to undertake and support joint professional development enhances professional learning, thereby strengthening staff expertise and improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Working together, schools can add rigour to their self-evaluation and develop policies and practices that lead to raised standards and improved Ofsted judgements.

By devising and sharing effective operational management, both schools can be managed more efficiently as well as allowing for greater flexibility and stability and increasing their ability to take advantage of economies of scale. This will enable both schools to reallocate funds to direct provision of educational opportunities for our children.

As governors of both schools we believe that federation offers the best future for the children in our communities.

### **What would happen to existing staff?**

There would be no changes to the contracts of existing staff working in either school. Contracts are currently held with Isle of Wight Council and this would remain the case.

The proposed leadership model is for an Executive Headteacher with overall responsibility for co ordinating the links between and the strategic direction of the two schools. The roles and responsibilities in the new structure beneath the Executive Headteacher (EHT) will be decided by the Executive Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Board.

We consider that the proposed federation will generate enhanced professional development and greater opportunity to share professional expertise. This should enable us to retain high quality staff and recruit high calibre Early Career Teachers (ECT) which is a crucial element in the Local Authority's drive for improving standards and raising children's achievement.

### **What specific changes are the governing bodies considering if federation is agreed?**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 the Governing Boards of both schools would be dissolved. A new Board will be formed through the normal recruitment processes, during which existing governors will have the opportunity to apply. Expressions of interest from members of both school communities will also be welcomed.

The new Governing Board would comprise of 2 parent governors, 1 governor appointed by the local authority, 1 staff governor, the EHT and 10 co-opted governors – which may include parents or staff from either school.

### **Is there anything else we are trying to achieve through this proposal?**

Both schools need to continue to explore ways of serving their communities, and we believe that a federation would be well placed to ensure the continued provision of shared opportunities, resources and facilities.

We also believe that federation will bring advantages for each school through helping each to achieve greater efficiencies, allowing for increased flexibility and stability.

The EHT (Executive Headteacher) would have a long-term view of each child's education and be tasked with ensuring that their progression from home or pre-school through Reception and onwards to secondary education is managed smoothly, effectively and in the best interests of each child. We can also build and sustain good relationships with parents and families over this period.

### **Will parents, staff and members of the community have the opportunity to discuss the proposals and ask questions?**

Governors have arranged for 2 'drop-in' sessions' at each school, where governors will be on hand to provide more information and answer any questions you may have. Comments made on the day will be reported back to the Governing Board of each school and will form part of the decision-making process.

Details of these drop-in sessions are shown below:

| <b>Date and Time</b>                              | <b>Venue</b> | <b>Audience</b>                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 3.00 pm   | Godshill     | Parents, carers and members of the community                  |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 4.00 pm   | Godshill     | Staff                                                         |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 3.00 pm      | Barton       | Parents, carers and members of the community                  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 4.00 pm    | Barton       | Staff                                                         |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm | Online       | Any from both school communities that cannot attend in person |

Parents, carers, members of the community and staff will be welcome to attend a session at either school, or online if unable to attend in person.

### **How can my views be heard?**

As well as attending either of the drop-in days or staff meetings, you may wish to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to either school office by midday on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

You can do this online via the Google form in the link below:

<https://forms.gle/RS1X8BxEzPNbQ61f7>

You can also submit your comments by email to [federation@bartonpri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:federation@bartonpri.iow.sch.uk) or [federation@godshillprimary.co.uk](mailto:federation@godshillprimary.co.uk).

### **What happens next?**

The responses to this consultation will be carefully considered by the Governing Boards of both schools and taken into account before a decision is made in the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The decision whether to federate will be communicated to parents, staff and other interested individuals no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.

Both Governing Boards would like to thank you all for your continued support of our schools.

**Consultation on Barton Primary School**  
**and Godshill Primary School proposal to federate.**

**Response form**

Please indicate your views on the proposal for Barton Primary School and Godshill Primary School to form a federation under one Governing Board with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.

**Comment: (please continue on another sheet of paper if necessary)**

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Which of the following best describes your connection with the school? (Please tick one only, which should be your main interest).

- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Member of teaching staff
- ☐ Member of support staff
- ☐ Member of the community
- ☐ Other (please state)

Please return this slip to the school office by midday on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the latest. Envelopes should be marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors and be clearly marked 'Federation'. This form is also available on the website for you to download, or you can submit your comments by email to [federation@bartonpri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:federation@bartonpri.iow.sch.uk) or [federation@godshillprimary.co.uk](mailto:federation@godshillprimary.co.uk) .