

GODSHILL AND BARTON FEDERATION CONSULTATION FAQS

Question	Answer
If the federation were to happen, what changes would I see in my child's school?	None. The Primary Schools have been working together informally for a considerable amount of time. Through federation, this arrangement would be formalised.
What are the benefits of federating the two schools?	Federation creates opportunities for further staff development and promotion, helping to retain skilled staff and creating stability. It also enables access to specialist staff and efficient use of resources.
What will it mean for the children and staff?	There will be no changes in daily routine or provision. Staff collaboration across schools will enhance learning opportunities, and resources will be used more efficiently.
Will the staff change?	Most day-to-day management will continue as arranged, but staff will have career progression opportunities. There will be no changes to staff terms and conditions except for the appointment of a Clerk to Governors.
What disadvantages might there be if the federation took place?	The Executive Head Teacher will work across both schools rather than being full-time at either. However, this model has already proven successful.
Are there examples of other federations within the Isle of Wight?	Yes. Examples include Yarmouth/Freshwater & Shalfleet, Nettlestone & Newchurch, and Carisbrooke & Newport Primary Schools.
Is there evidence to show that such federations prove successful?	Government research in 2018 identified federations as a means to secure sustainable school improvement through shared practices.
Can a federation be dissolved?	Yes. The Governing Board can decide to de-federate. Best practice suggests reviewing federations every two years.

Why our schools?	The collaboration has already improved both schools, and federation is the next step to formalise these benefits.
Does federating schools ultimately cost them more money?	No. It can actually save money through shared resources and greater purchasing power.
Would the schools lose their individual identity?	No. School names, identities, ethos, and uniforms will remain unchanged.
What changes would the federation bring to the governing boards?	Each school currently has its own board, but a single Governing Board would be responsible for both if federation proceeds.
What is an Executive Headteacher and what are the models of leadership we can use?	The Executive Headteacher provides strategic leadership across the federation, supported by Senior Leadership Teams in each school. The current EHT post would be ringfenced.
Is this just a Government cost-saving exercise?	No. The recommendation to federate was made jointly by both governing boards, without external influence. Budgets will remain separate.
What will be the impact for onsite Preschool?	There will be no impact on Preschool provision as a result of federation.
How can I find out more about what Federation entails?	Drop-in sessions will be held for questions. A Federation Response Form will also be available on school websites and in offices.
Will the Governors take full account of the views of the parents?	Yes. The governing boards will consider all feedback and make a decision based on the best interests of pupils and staff.
Can I become a Governor of the New Federated Governing body?	Yes. Expressions of interest are welcomed, and selection will follow statutory regulations.
Why does it take so long to Federate the schools?	The process requires full consultation and addressing of any concerns, aligning with school term timelines.
Are schools within the Federation inspected jointly or separately by Ofsted?	They are inspected separately but may be reviewed at the same time for a comprehensive evaluation. Ofsted recognises federations in its assessment process.