



**BECKWITHSHAW  
SCHOOL**

Learning to Learn - Learning for Life

Church Row  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG3 1QW

**Headteacher:** Mrs L Jackson-Ward

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Dear Parents,

**Re: Federation of the Federation of Beckwithshaw and Kettleasing Felliscliffe Community  
Primary Schools with Ripley Endowed CoE Primary School**

The Governing Bodies of the Federation of Beckwithshaw and Kettleasing Felliscliffe Primary Schools and Ripley Endowed Church of England Primary school met together on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of January to consider the results of the consultation process and to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposed Federation. We would like to thank all of the parents and staff who made their views known to us both formally and informally over the past few months. Please note all written submissions will receive a response in writing from their respective Governing Body. All feedback was considered and openly discussed at length in the meetings and it served as a useful exercise in establishing our joint vision for all three schools beyond the current collaborative arrangements.

This communication is to announce that both Governing bodies agreed to move to Federation and that this should commence with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The main change to take effect on this date will be the incorporation of one Governing Body and the dissolution of the two previous governing bodies. In preparation for this, across February and March, there will be elections of staff and parent governors to represent all schools in the Federation. You will be receiving more information on parent governor elections across the coming weeks and you will all be invited to participate in these. The Local Authority will also nominate one governor and two Foundation Governors will be approved by the Leeds Diocese. Together with the Headteacher, these governors will then elect 5 co-opted governors, having assessed the necessary skills and experience required in the new Federation.

I am sure that many of you are aware of current discussions within North Yorkshire and nationally about the long term sustainability of small schools within the educational landscape. We are pleased that all our schools have proactively considered how we can go about sustaining each respective small-school ethos (Including Ripley's Church school ethos) whilst becoming part of a wider group of schools. Our aim and vision is that all three schools deliver high standards of teaching and pupil progress as part of the wider federation.

Both Governing Bodies are convinced that federation is the best and most effective way to help secure the future of all three schools. We know that what we have across all three schools is a precious, unique and individual child-focused learning environment and this is exactly what we are seeking to maintain. You can be reassured that this has and will continue to be the primary focus for the new leadership team across both schools going forward. The intent is not to make significant changes to the way any school operates but to share best practice and encourage co-operation where it can deliver a tangible benefit for pupils and staff.





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We also feel that we start from a fantastic base having already built a strong federation between Kettlethorpe and Beckwithshaw over the last 2 years. During the collaboration with Ripley since September 2018 we have seen clearly how what works well in the existing federation can be applied across all schools to improve teaching and learning. We have also witnessed the increased efficiency of day-to-day tasks in and around school when plans and policies can be created together by staff across all three schools. Our children have already and will continue to benefit from this collaborative approach in an ever-changing educational landscape. We believe we are stronger together.

We look forward to working with all parents and staff across the coming months as we transition into the Federation. Your support in securing a bright future for our schools and a fantastic education for all of our pupils is genuinely very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Robinson  
Chair of Governors

The Federation of Beckwithshaw and  
Kettlethorpe-Felliscliffe  
Community Primary Schools

Rose Gosling  
Chair of Governors

Ripley Endowed Church of England  
Primary School

