

Consultation on the proposed federation of Heelands School and Summerfield School

What is this consultation proposing?

The governing boards of Heelands School and Summerfield School are writing to you to tell you about the start of a consultation process to create a federation between the two schools.

The governing boards believe that a federation of the two schools would be very positive and will build upon their collaboration to date. However, before we consider it any further, we would like to tell you about it, and find out your views. Both schools were judged 'Good' by Ofsted at their last inspection.

The proposal

In brief, the proposal is to formally federate the two schools, starting in July 2023. A federation is where both schools work very closely together under one governing board, while retaining their own identity.

The schools would share an Executive Headteacher, Executive Deputy Headteacher, and have one governing board.

The role of the single governing board would be to:

- define a shared vision and strategic direction for the schools
- deliver robust combined financial management
- continue to hold the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the schools

The governing board at Heelands School would federate with the governing board at Summerfield School. It is currently proposed that there would be a total of 10 governors, of which there would be:

- 2 x parent governors
- 1 x elected staff governor
- 1 x executive headteacher
- 1 x local authority nominated governor
- 5 x co-opted governors

This would mean that:

- Both schools would keep their names and individual identities, existing as separate schools, on separate sites;
- Both schools would continue to be registered separately with Ofsted, and retain their existing judgements;
- Both schools would continue to have their own separate budgets;
- The governing board would set the strategic vision across the schools and ensure educational and financial accountability;
- Both schools would work in very close partnership for the benefit of all the children;
- Existing staff contracts would not change as a result of the federation;
- Admission arrangements for the schools would not be affected;
- A shared vision, values and ethos of the schools would be developed which would be safeguarded by the federation.

We believe that this is a good idea because:

- Our schools have a shared ethos and have similar values and beliefs; both schools share a similar demographic and are 0.4 miles apart;
- It will provide a strong future for the schools by securing strong leadership;
- Standards will be improved through sharing best practice and development of subject and year group specialisms;
- It will mean that best practice, facilities and expertise will be shared between the two schools;
- It will provide more opportunities for shared costs and efficiencies, meaning that there is more money available for high quality teaching and learning;
- It will provide benefits in terms of staff retention, recruitment, and development.

Admission authorities

- Heelands School and Summerfield School are both community schools. The local authority, Milton Keynes City Council, is the admissions authority.

Next steps

The consultation period will begin on **9 May 2023** and will end on **26 June 2023**. After this time, we will jointly consider any responses to the proposal and each governing board will decide whether to proceed or not. If it is decided that the proposal should go ahead, the new arrangements would start in July 2023.



How can I find out more and contribute to this consultation:

The schools have arranged drop-in sessions for people to find out more and give their views. These will take place at:

- **Heelands School**
Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 5.30pm
- **Heelands School**
Thursday 18 May 2023 at 9.00am
- **Summerfield School**
Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 9.00am
- **Summerfield School**
Thursday 25 May 2023 at 5.30pm

These are open to anyone to attend.

Staff sessions will be held at:

- **Heelands School**
Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 3.15pm
- **Summerfield School**
Thursday 11 May 2023 at 3.30pm

This consultation seeks views from parents, carers, staff, and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. Please go online and complete the web form at:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations

If you are unable to access the online form, you may respond by email to:

Sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

or in writing to Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes Council, Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

Both school websites will have FAQs published as the consultation progresses. Please visit

www.summerfieldschool.org or

www.heelands.milton-keynes.sch.uk for further information.