

CONSULTATION ON EXPANDING THE FEDERATION OF LONDON FIELDS SCHOOL, WOODBERRY DOWN SCHOOL AND MANDEVILLE SCHOOL TO INCLUDE WHITMORE SCHOOL

Monday 28 February -
Friday 8 April 2011



Location of the four schools



**1 LONDON FIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
2 Westgate Street,
London E8 3RL

T: 020 7254 4330
F: 020 7249 2824

**2 MANDEVILLE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Oswald Street,
London E5 0BT

T: 020 8986 5249
F: 020 8985 9505

**3 WOODBERRY DOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Woodberry Grove,
London N4 1SY

T: 020 8800 5758
F: 020 8211 0029

**4 WHITMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Bridport Place,
London N1 5JN

T: 020 7739 7973
F: 020 7613 4682



Proposal on expanding the Best Start Federation to include Whitmore Primary School

What is this information about?

The Governing Bodies of the Best Start Federation and Whitmore School have decided to consult with staff, parents and carers on a proposal to expand the existing federation of schools to include Whitmore School. This is your opportunity to let them know what you think about this proposal.

This paper contains:

- an outline of the proposal;
- a response form for you to complete and return.

The following events, designed as drop-in meetings, will provide parents/carers with an opportunity to speak to governors about the federation:

Monday 7 March 2011, 4pm to 6.30pm

Parents Consultation Evening at London Fields Primary School

Tuesday 8 March 2011, 4pm to 6.30pm

Parents Consultation Evening at Woodberry Down Primary School

Wednesday 9 March 2011, 4pm to 6.30pm

Parents Consultation Evening at Mandeville Primary School

Thursday 10 March 2011, 4pm to 6.30pm

Parents Consultation Evening at Whitmore Primary School

Further meetings will be arranged at each school if necessary and advertised via the school newsletter.

Please send your completed response form to either:

- the sealed box in each of the school's reception area or
- Asa Melander, The Learning Trust, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ or
- e-mail your comments or queries to asa.melander@learningtrust.co.uk

If you have specific questions about the proposal please contact Asa Melander, Divisional Business Manager, on **020 8820 7229** or email her at the above address.

This document and response form is also available online by visiting our website: **www.learningtrust.co.uk**

This consultation will close on **8 April 2011**.

This report can be provided in other languages or in large print upon request by filling out the sheet at the back of this document.



Summary information

The Governing Body of the Best Start Federation would like Whitmore School to become a part of the federation. Therefore a consultation on expanding the federation is being conducted which may result in Whitmore School joining the federation from the autumn term 2011 (1 September).

A federation is where schools share a governing body

- Pupils won't change schools.
- Their lessons will be in the same school as they are now.
- Children will not move from one school to the other for their lessons.
- The names of the schools will not change, nor will the uniforms.
- Mr Wallace will become Executive Principal of Whitmore School as well.
- There will be no change to admission arrangements for Whitmore.

We believe this is good for pupils

- The schools will retain their own individuality but work together in creating a joint ethos.
- The schools serve similar communities and are of a similar size, so they can each learn from the other.

We believe this is good for staff

- Staff will be able to share knowledge with people from a different school with similar challenges – this is very rare in education.
- We will be able to offer a new level for staff development.

We believe this is good for parents

- Parents will know that because we can share resources, their children will be getting even more opportunities for a superb education.

We are not merging the four schools!

You have 6 weeks to send us your comments, just return the page at the back to one of the schools or to Asa Melander at The Learning Trust by **Friday 8 April 2011**.



The current situation

London Fields Primary School and Woodberry Down Community Primary School have been working in partnership as a successful school federation since September 2008. Greg Wallace has been the Executive Principal throughout. Since January 2009 he has worked in partnership with Mandeville Primary School and became Executive Principal of Mandeville on 1 June 2009. Mandeville then joined the federation.

A large group of staff from London Fields, Woodberry Down and Mandeville have played a key role in securing improvements in all three schools. The three schools are working very well in partnership.

Woodberry Down is the lead school in the federation. Mr Wallace has been the Headteacher there since 2001 and during that time the school has had two 'outstanding' Ofsted inspections and is now a National Support School. Mr Wallace is a National Leader in Education.

In 2010 London Fields and Woodberry Down were inspected by Ofsted. The Ofsted inspection focused on the effectiveness of the partnership between the two schools. The full report is available via the Ofsted website. Key extracts are reproduced below:

"...inspirational leadership, clear strategic vision for the federation, impressive improvement at London Fields within a short time... relentless drive to raise standards and steely resolve to ensure all staff assumed full responsibility for the achievement of every pupil in the federation... outstanding leadership capacity... rigorous recruitment procedures... staff of calibre and, moreover, with future leadership potential... the drive and ambition for every pupil to succeed came through strongly in all discussions with staff... excellent programme of joint professional development opportunities offered to staff... exceptional ICT systems... units of work on race and gender equality are impressive... federation has received national recognition for its published work on the curriculum including the innovative assessment and marking procedures evidenced in pupils' books... London Fields' pupils bubbled with enthusiasm and pride as they talked about 'the magical change that happened' at the start of the federation; it had given them a 'reason to learn'... the achievements of the federation are clearly valued by The Learning Trust..."

In the same week, Mandeville was also inspected. The full report is available via the Ofsted website. Key extracts are reproduced below:

*"Mandeville Primary is a good school. It is improving rapidly and starting to exhibit some outstanding features. **The remarkable progress that has taken place in less than a year stems directly from working in partnership with the federation.** Inspiring leadership throughout the school, but particularly from the executive principal, is instrumental in this improvement and is helping to lay very firm foundations for future success. Consistency of approach, high expectations and challenging targets for staff and pupils are the key, along with a concerted and relentless drive to secure more effective teaching and learning. A new team of teachers, some quite inexperienced, has knitted together quickly into a cohesive unit, all very keen to improve. **Teaching is improving rapidly as the school is able to draw on expertise from across the federation to develop teachers' skills.** Parents and carers are delighted with the improvements that they see taking place on almost a daily basis."*



What is a Federation?

Under the Education Act 2002, schools and local authorities can propose that between two and five schools can join together to create a federation. The schools then combine their governing bodies, so that there is just one governing body for the federation so the federating schools can pool resources. In this case, four schools will be federating.

What's in it for the children?

The four schools have a broadly similar number of pupils, and similar sized staffs; there will be opportunities to share staff expertise across the schools, which will give access to a much larger pool of knowledge and there will be the chance to share specialist knowledge across the schools. Children will therefore have access to more opportunities for good quality learning. There are also opportunities to use school resources and budgets more efficiently. The schools are different, however, and we believe that a federation will enable each school to learn from the other, to the benefit of all pupils.

What's in it for the staff?

Most day-to-day management will continue as it is now arranged, but there will be opportunities for staff to get involved across all schools; this will provide exciting career progression for staff, enabling them to extend themselves and to co-operate with colleagues on other school sites.

What's in it for the parents?

The schools will become stronger, because when they co-operate, good practice can be shared easily. Better opportunities for learning mean that children can be helped to overcome barriers to learning because resources can be shared across the four schools. The retention of quality staff would ensure a continued high standard of education for the pupils at all the schools.

What changes would occur to the governing bodies under federation?

Following federation there would be a single governing body and a single set of committee meetings, covering the four schools. We expect the federation governing body would have members drawn from all of the current governing bodies and schools. We propose that the federation governing body consists of one of the following models:

	Parents	Staff	Community	Local Authority
	<i>At least a third</i>	<i>No more than a third</i>	<i>At least a fifth</i>	<i>No more than a fifth</i>
New four school option 1 (total 12)	4 (33%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)	2 (17%)
New four school option 2 (total 19)	8 (42%)	4 (21%)	4 (21%)	3 (16%)

The Governing Bodies of the Best Start Federation and Whitmore will jointly agree on which model to go for.



Will the staffing change?

Mr Wallace will be the Executive Principal for the new federation. Mr Wallace will be assisted by a Head of School and a senior management team in each school. Staff are not going to be required to move from one school to the other, but we may ask some staff to take their specialist knowledge into one of the other schools, so that we can share best practice. Some staff may move as part of career development.

Could children be forced to change schools?

No. The admission arrangements will remain exactly as they are at present. Parents will apply on behalf of their children to the school of their choice.

Will children have to travel between the schools for lessons?

No. The schools may share staff, but lessons for London Fields children will be at the London Fields School site, lessons for Mandeville children at the Mandeville site, lessons for Woodberry Down children at their site and lessons for Whitmore children at their site. However, where one school has specialist facilities we will share these with the other schools for the benefit of all children. If children have specific teaching needs that can be best accommodated by grouping them for certain lessons across schools we will consult with parents about the advantages or otherwise of this alternative provision.

Will the arrangements be fair to all schools?

Yes – any arrangements made as part of the federation will be completely fair to all schools. There may be some funding for innovation, which the four schools can share: obviously the more pupils who will benefit from a project, the bigger the projects that we can consider.

What if we want to go back to separate governing bodies?

The federation arrangement will be reviewed in two years' time by the federation governing body to see if it has been successful. If at any time the schools wished to break up the federation, there is a standard process that would be set in place, which would include a six-week consultation followed by a final decision by the governing body.

Do you have any questions?

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to discuss this proposal with members of the governing body of their school. Details of these meetings are on page 3 of the document and will be published in the weekly school newsletter shortly.

Consultation on the proposal to expand the Best Start Federation to include Whitmore School

If you would like to find out what this document says, please put a tick in the appropriate box and fill in your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to address below.

Bu belgenin içeriğinin açıklamasını istiyorsanız lütfen bu kutuyu işaretleyin, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın altındaki boş yerlere yazın, ve sayfayı aşağıdaki adrese gönderin. (Turkish)

Haddii aad jeceshahay in aad ogaato waxa warqadan laguugu sheegaayo, Fadlan waxa aad calaamadisaa Sanduuqan oo waxa aad Magacaaga, Adirayskaaga iyo Telifoon Lambarkaaga aad ku qortaa xagga hoose ee boggan, oo ku soo celi markaa Adirayskan xagga hoose ku qoran. (Somali)

如果你想知道這份文件的詳細內容，請在格子里 剔一下。在本頁下面寫下你的名字，地址和電話號碼并寄到下面的地址。(Chinese)

Nếu quý vị muốn tìm hiểu tài liệu này nói điều gì xin đánh dấu vào ô và ghi tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của quý vị vào cuối trang này và gửi về địa chỉ dưới đây. (Vietnamese)

এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান অনুগ্রহ করে সাথে বাক্স টিক দিন। তারপর পাতাটির নিচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং টেলিফোন নাম্বার লিখে নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় ফেরৎ পাঠান। (Bengali)

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજ ચું જણાવે છે તે વિષે માહિતી જોઈતી હોય તો મહેરબાની કરીને બોક્સમાં નિશાની કરી અને આ પાનાના અંતમાં તમારું નામ, સરનામું અને ટેલિફોન નંબર આપી અને તેને નીચે સરનામે રવાના કરશો. (Gujerati)

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਜਾਣਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕੀ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਖਾਨੇ ਵਿਚ ਠੀਕਾ ਮਾਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਨਾਂ, ਪਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਇਸ ਪੰਨੇ ਦੇ ਬੱਲੇ ਲਿਖੋ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਵਾਪਸ ਭੇਜ ਦਿਓ। (Punjabi)

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous: (Français)

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, ponga una señal en el recuadro y escriba su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la dirección que se indica abajo. (Spanish)

اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو اس کے ساتھ کرم باکس میں ایک صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھیے اور اسے نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔ (Urdu)

Return to: **Asa Melander, The Learning Trust, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ**

Your Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____



Monitoring information

Why do we collect this information?

We have a legal duty to promote equality. To help us we need to collect information on those who are using or would like to use our services. With up to date and accurate information we will be able to identify any possible discrimination or barriers to using our services (or obtaining information about our services) for different groups of people.

We will use the information you provide to identify ways we might achieve fewer barriers, greater equality, fairness and respect for all our service users, staff and members of the community.

Data protection

We comply with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information you provide is confidential and will not be used in ways that could identify any particular person by a third party. Please circle/tick your answers.

1. Are you

- Male Female

2. What is your ethnic group?

Our ethnic background describes how we think of ourselves. This may be based on many things such as language, ancestry, a shared history or religion. Ethnic background is not necessarily the same as nationality or country of birth. It is not possible to list all the ethnic groups but those listed below reflect the largest ethnic groups in Hackney.

White

- British
- Irish
- Traveller of Irish heritage
- Gypsy Roma
- Turkish/Turkish Cypriot
- Greek/Greek Cypriot
- White Eastern European
- White Western European
- Albanian
- Any other White background, please specify: _____

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African – Angolan
- African – Somali
- African – Congolese
- African – Nigerian
- African – Ghanaian
- African – Sierra Leonean
- African – Sudanese
- Any other African or Black background, please specify: _____



