



Consultation on a federation of

Greatstone Primary School

&

Repton Manor Primary School

Consultation period:

Wednesday 20th April 2022 to Wednesday 8th June 2022

What is this information and consultation about?

Greatstone Primary School and Repton Manor Primary School are two unique Foundation schools in different communities. Over the last year, the schools have been working effectively together.

The Governing Bodies of both schools have agreed to consult with staff, parents, guardians and other interested parties on a proposal to form a working partnership and become a federation. The governing bodies see this as an opportunity to formalise the way the schools are working together and to secure good and effective leadership across both schools to maintain and improve standards. A federation is an arrangement that formalises the way that two schools will work together.

A federation is a partnership of two schools sharing a governing body whilst each school retains its own independence and identity. It is not a merger of the two schools. Therefore:

- the names of the schools will not change.
- the uniforms will stay the same.
- the admissions arrangements will not change.

This is good for pupils and parents as:

- the schools will each continue to have the same ethos as they have today.
- The children will be able to access opportunities that they could not as two individual schools.
- the two schools serve different communities, each can learn from the other and benefit from working together.
- the sharing of expert staff knowledge and experience will enrich the opportunities for pupils.
- Staff will have the opportunity to make use of resources from both schools to best meet the needs of the children.

This is good for staff as:

- they will be able to share knowledge and expertise with colleagues across both schools.
- they will have new opportunities for professional development.
- there will be consistent and strengthened leadership across both schools.
- there will be opportunities for staff to extend their leadership and management skills and enhance their career development opportunities.

What changes will the pupils, parents, staff and governors see?

The pupils will have access to more opportunities for good quality learning. There will be opportunities to use school resources and budgets more efficiently. The two schools are different, however the governing bodies recognise that a federation will enable each school to learn from the other, whilst remaining independent, to the benefit of both sets of pupils.

The staff will have increased opportunities to collaborate and learn from each other. There will be greater opportunities for career development. There will be an Executive Headteacher overseeing one Head of School and one Deputy Headteacher at each school. Staff will continue to share their specialist knowledge with the other school, so that the schools can extend best practice.

The parents will see increased opportunities for learning as resources can be accessed across both schools. Collaboration of staff across both schools will support children to overcome barriers to learning.

One Federated Governing Body will be created to oversee the co-ordinated working and the governors will have the opportunity to formulate policy and overarching strategy to ensure consistent practice across both schools. The governors will be able to support alongside the senior leadership, the increased opportunities for pupil learning and staff development from which both schools will benefit as part of the Federation. As foundation schools, the federated governing body would continue to be the admissions authority.

The Federation Governing Body would have members drawn from both current governing bodies and schools. It is the intention that there will be two Committees, one for each school, to provide governance at a local school level; these will ensure that each school retains its own unique identity in its particular community and environment.

As this will be a new governing body, elections will need to be held for parent and staff governors.

The proposed membership for the federation governing body would consist of 19 Governors as follows:

The Executive Head Teacher

2 Elected parent governors

1 Elected staff governor

2 Partnership governors

1 Local Authority governor

Up to 12 co-opted governors which will include 1 co-opted staff governor

In addition, the federated governing body would be able to appoint associate members to each local school committee. These would be members whom, in the opinion of the federation governing body, would contribute to maintaining the individual character of each school. Each committee would include the local Head of School.

If the proposal is agreed, the federation will begin on 01 July 2022.

Will the funding arrangements change?

Each school will retain its own budget. The Federation Governing Body will have oversight of how funds can be deployed to maximise the benefits of federation while meeting the needs of each individual school.

Opportunity to provide your views

Parents/guardians and other interested parties will have an opportunity to respond to this consultation and to speak to governors about the federation at our consultation meetings; please attend at the venue that is most convenient to you:

Monday 9th May 6pm Repton Manor Primary School

Tuesday 10th May 6pm Greatstone Primary School

Please return your completed response form in one of the following ways:

- in the sealed box located in either schools' reception area
- emailed directly to office@greatstoneschool.co.uk or office@reptonmanor.kent.sch.uk
- post to:

Clerk to Governors

Greatstone Primary School, Baldwin Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8SY

Or

Clerk to Governors

Repton Manor Primary School, Repton Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3RX

Mr David Lea
Chair of Governors
Greatstone Primary School

Mr Wayne Wills
Chair of Governors
Repton Manor Primary School

The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Activity
Wednesday 20 th April 2022 to Wednesday 8 th June 2022	Consultation Period
Monday 9 th May 2022 6pm Repton Manor School Tuesday 10 th May 2022 6pm Greatstone School	6:00pm meeting at both schools for parents/carers, staff, governors and other interested parties.
Week commencing 20 June 2022	Formal Decision by the separate governing bodies
Friday 1 st July 2022	Intended start of federation should both governing bodies agree to this.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Governing bodies of Greatstone Primary School and Repton Manor Primary School are data controllers under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and, in this instance, used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to:

www.greatstoneschool.co.uk

or

www.reptonmanorprimary.co.uk

RESPONSE FORM – Proposal to federate Repton Manor Primary School and Greatstone Primary School.

Please complete this response form and either place it in the sealed box in either Repton Manor School Reception or Greatstone School Reception, or post it to the Clerk to the Governors (address in Consultation document) no later than 4pm on Wednesday 8th June 2022

Comments:

Please continue overleaf if necessary.

Question 1: Do you agree with the plan to federate Repton Manor Primary School and Greatstone Primary School?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Undecided

Parent/Carer – Repton Manor School	Parent/Carer – Greatstone School
Member of Staff - Repton Manor School	Member of Staff – Greatstone School
Governor – Repton Manor School	Governor – Greatstone School
Repton Park interested party / community member	Greatstone interested party / community member

* Please delete, as appropriate

Name

Address.....