

New Bridge and Caversham Nursery Schools and Blagdon Nursery School Federation Proposal Consultation

16.9.19 - 28.10.19



New Bridge and Caversham Nursery Schools and Blagdon Nursery School

Federation Proposal Consultation

Introduction

The Governors of New Bridge and Caversham Nursery Schools and Blagdon Nursery School have agreed to a consultation to form a Federation. A Federation is a formal agreement between two or more Schools to work together under a single governing body.

New Bridge Nursery School and Caversham Nursery School have been federated since September 2013 and entered into a soft federation with Blagdon Nursery School in April 2019.

New Bridge and Caversham Nursery Schools and Blagdon Nursery School have been led by Joanne Budge as their Executive Head teacher since April 2019 during which time they have started to work more closely together, developing joint policies and starting to align procedures and practice etc.

What is a Federation?

A Federation is a formal agreement between two or more schools to work together under a single governing body. As part of the Government's policy to raise standards in schools, it is encouraging institutions to work together. This type of collaboration means that Settings can share expertise, resources, facilities and possibly staff. With the uncertainty surrounding the future funding of Maintained Nursery Schools it is prudent to look for ways to make them sustainable and secure their future.

What is the Proposal?

It is proposed from 1st January 2020 New Bridge and Caversham Nursery Schools and Blagdon Nursery School will form a Federation that would formalise the existing arrangement and strengthen the partnership between the three schools.

- There will be one joint Governing Body for all three schools.
- The Federation will be led by one Executive Head teacher, currently Mrs Joanne Budge, who will oversee the work of the Federation.
- Initially each school will retain its own budget, separate admissions policy and will be inspected by OFSTED separately. This may change as the federation becomes more established. It is hoped that utilising staff and facilities will lead to a more cost effective way of working.

What are the Advantages of the Proposed Federation?

- Early Years Excellence. The Federation provides an opportunity to unite thus securing the very best outcomes for young children. Committed professionals with a wide range of knowledge and experience will be able to work more closely together over the three schools, sharing ideas and resources, which will drive improvement and raise standards of teaching and learning.
- Potential opportunities for professional development. Staff at each school will benefit from the opportunity to learn from the expertise of staff based at the other schools.
- Governors will benefit from sharing good practice and developing together in a new combined Governing Body.
- It will strengthen leadership. There will be more opportunity and experience in leadership for all staff, giving us the potential to help grow the leaders of the future.
- Combined buying power; in particular savings may be made in the bulk purchasing of some resources, this will benefit all school financially.
- Greater access to specialist staff, e.g. the Snowflake centre at New Bridge.
- Sharing good practice; each school has key strengths to share amongst staff
- Stronger community links and connections.

What would stay the same?

- The Schools keep their individual identities and names.
- The Schools retain their catchment areas and admissions policies.
- Initially each school would retain their own budget but this may change over time.
- Each School would be inspected separately by OFSTED.
- The teachers, early year's practitioners, support staff, office staff and Parent Associations and groups initially will stay the same at each School. In future staff may be able to work across the schools within the federation enabling us to share and save resources and share expertise.

For children and parents, the day to day experience of nursery would remain the same as it is at the moment.

The current Governing Bodies have discussed the benefits of the proposed Federation in depth and agreed to take the next step of publishing this formal consultation in order to get your views.

What you say matters.

This Consultation is being sent to all parents of children currently in all three schools, all staff, the Local Authority, the Secretary of State and all other interested parties. The Consultation is also available online.

In addition you are invited to attend, share your thoughts and ask questions on these proposals at a consultation drop in hosted by the Executive Head teacher at each school (details can be found below, on the websites and in each school).

The Governors will consider all comments about the proposals in coming to their decision about whether to proceed. Each Governing Body will decide separately.

The closing date for comments is Sunday 27th October 2019.

Please do contact us and tell what you think by writing to us at one of the following addresses:

- Federation Consultation, New Bridge Nursery, Montague Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5AU
- Federation Consultation, Caversham Nursery School, 114 Amersham Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5NA
- Federation Consultation, Blagdon Nursery School, Blagdon Road, Whitley, Reading, RG2 7NT
- Email:-consultation@newbridgenursery.reading.sch.uk

Your comments about the proposed federation:

Please tick as appropriate

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Union Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary of State

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Details of the Formal Proposal

1. New Bridge and Caversham Nursery schools and Blagdon Nursery Schools Governing Body both agree with a proposal to federate
2. The Federated Governing Body will have 14 governors
 - 3 Parent Governors- (all to be elected)
 - The Executive Head teacher
 - 3 Staff Governors
 - 1 Local Authority Governor
 - 6 Co-Opted Governors

This number will be reviewed annually

3. The Executive Head teacher will be Mrs Joanne Budge
4. The proposed federation date: 1st January 2020
5. Reading Borough Council remains the admissions authority for the Schools within the Federation
6. Written representations will be accepted from 16th September 2019 until 27th October 2019
7. Representations can be handed into the office at any of the schools or posted to:
Federation Consultation, New Bridge Nursery School, Montague Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5AU
Federation Consultation, Caversham Children's Centre, 114 Amersham Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5NA
Federation Consultation, Blagdon Nursery School, Blagdon Road, Whitley, Reading, RG2 7NT
Email: consultation@newbridgenursery.reading.sch.uk

Consultation drop in sessions:

- **Tuesday 24th September 5 - 6.30pm at Caversham Nursery School**
- **Wednesday 25th September 3.30 – 5.00pm at Blagdon Nursery School**
- **Monday 14th October 2.30 - 4.00pm at New Bridge Nursery School**

Following the Consultation, both Governing Bodies will consider the comments received and will formally decide whether or not to proceed with the Federation.

The Governing Bodies will write to parents and staff in the week commencing 2nd December 2019

Both Governing Bodies would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal.