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22 April 2021

Proposal to move from a soft federation to a hard federation between Harting CofE and Stedham Primary Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Bodies of Harting CofE Primary School (HPS) and Stedham Primary School (SPS) are consulting with the parents and staff about the proposed formation of a Hard Federation between the two schools.

This decision has been driven by the major challenge for all rural schools in addressing finances, skills and the wider curriculum. Our schools have been collaborating closely within the Rother Valley Group and much more closely since March 2020.

The Governors of HPS and SPS have worked together to agree the terms of the Federation, the details of which are available on the school websites.

The consultation process will start today, 22 April 2021, with the issue of this letter to all parents and staff in both schools. The consultation will last for six school weeks from today until 3 June 2021 at Close of Business. Virtual meetings will be held during the week of 10th May 2021 and online survey will be made available via the websites during the week of 17th May 2021.

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to ask questions and have your say. Details of the different ways you can do this can be found on the schools' websites.

While this consultation is about forming a Hard Federation between HPS and SPS, Governors and the schools leadership teams are interested in your views on wider issues. If you have other comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

We will be seeking the views of the children during May, The school councils of both schools will take a lead on this. We will be consulting all staff members of both schools through discussions and inviting their responses during the consultation period.

The Governing Bodies of both schools will consider all submissions received and the results of the online survey. They will be meeting separately and then together on 9 June 2021 to agree a formal decision on whether to form a Hard Federation or not and we will once again write to you to inform you of the outcome.

This letter is being given to all parents via children's book bags and will be available on the schools' websites. A hard copy of the proposals will also be available for inspection at both school offices. There will be reminders of dates for Zoom Q&A sessions in the weekly newsletters and by email/text.

Thank you for your interest.

Kind regards,



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Jeff Ace
Chair of Governors
Harting CofE Primary School



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Celia Billington
Chair of Governors
Stedham Primary School