



Upper Durham Dales Federation

Rookhope, St John's Chapel and Wearhead Primary Schools



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Hodgkinson s.hodgkinson@uddf.co.uk
Federation Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo: Mr Richard Sains r.sains@uddf.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carers

RE: Federation of Hamsterley Primary School with the Upper Durham Dales Federation

On the 6th of April 2022 Hamsterley Primary School Governors met to discuss the options available for the future Hamsterley Primary School. All options have been discussed in depth and Governors voted on a favoured option moving forward. It is important to recognise that the decision-making process is no reflection on the current leadership arrangement or previous arrangements that have been in place. Instead, to ensure the best situation for the school to move forward. Governors voted to work on federating with other schools. The primary reason for this is to link with small and rural schools who have a similar structure, ethos, and common ground that we do.

In July 2022, the Hamsterley Primary School Governors informally approached the Upper Durham Dales Federation, which consists of schools in St John's Chapel, Wearhead and Rookhope to discuss the option of joining with them as part of a federation. Since this time, the Upper Durham Dales Federation has agreed to federate with Hamsterley Primary School. Formal discussions have taken place during the last few months, and it was agreed that the schools would federate on the 1st September 2023 subject to a positive consultation period. The relationship between the current federation and Hamsterley Primary School has been very positive.

There is naturally a formal process for federating which includes the dissolution of the current Upper Durham Dales Federation. The primary reason for this communication is the formal consultation process which will begin on the 6th March 2023 and conclude on the 28th April 2023. Attached with this letter is the formal consultation document which provides full details of the proposed federation and what this might mean for all the schools involved in the process.

As part of the consultation process, there will be an opportunity for parents/carers of pupils who attend the current Upper Durham Dales Federation of Rookhope, St John's Chapel and Wearhead Primary Schools, to attend a drop-in session at St John's Chapel Primary School on Thursday 16th March from 3:30 to 5pm to discuss the proposal and ask any questions. If you are unable to attend this session but have a question you wish to ask, please email Mrs Hodgkinson s.hodgkinson@uddf.co.uk and she will be in touch.

The last page of the consultation document allows you to vote on the proposed federation which you can do until 10am on Friday, 28th April 2023. We would like to thank you for your time to consider the proposal and look forward to seeing you at the consultation meeting if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

M den Hollander

Mark den Hollander
Chair of Governors
Hamsterley Primary School

R Nattrass

Ruth Nattrass
Chair of Governors
Upper Durham Dales Federation