Proposed federation of Thomas A Becket Infant and Junior Schools

Frequently asked questions for parents, carers and school community.

What is being proposed?

The governing bodies of Thomas A Becket Infant School and Thomas A Becket Junior School are consulting on a proposal to form a federation. Under the proposal, a single governing body would oversee both schools. Each school would keep its own identity, site, staff, pupils, admissions arrangements and budget.

At present, each school has its own governing body as well as a separate partnership board, with equal representation from both governing bodies that oversees the work the schools do together. Having one governing body would make it easier for governors to share information, oversee both schools and make decisions on matters that affect them both.

Why are the schools proposing to federate?

The proposal builds on the work already under way through "two schools, one journey". It would give one governing body responsibility for strategic planning across both schools and overseeing statutory governance requirements including finance and resources, safeguarding, attendance and support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It would also help staff to continue to share best practice across the schools.

What would change for my child day to day?

There will be no changes to your child day to day. The only change is from two governing bodies to one. The schools would continue to operate on their existing sites, and children would continue to attend their own school. Families would still contact their own school about day-to-day matters, such as absence, school routines or concerns about their child

What would happen to the leadership of the two schools?

The schools currently share an interim executive headteacher through the partnership. If agreed, the federation would include a permanent Executive Headteacher. TAB Infants will have two Deputy Headteachers and TAB Juniors will have two Deputy Head teachers supported by an Assistant Headteacher.

Would my child automatically get a place at the Junior School?

No, families would continue to apply for a Year 3 place through the usual admissions process. Applications would be considered under the Junior School's published admissions arrangements and this is managed thorough the West Sussex County Council admissions process.

How might this help children moving from Year 2 to Year 3?

Working together would help staff further plan transition visits together, share information about children's learning and support needs, and help children get to know the Junior School before they move. Some great practices are already in place here and we would like to build on these as we develop the existing partnership.

What would this mean for children with SEND or other support needs?

Families would continue to speak to their child's school about their individual needs and support. One aim of closer working is to help staff share best practise and coordinate support as children move from Year 2 to Year 3, so the Junior School can plan for their arrival with a clearer understanding of what helps them.

Would the schools share a budget?

Each school would retain its own budget. The proposed governing body would oversee both budgets and consider how resources could be used effectively across the two schools.

Has the decision already been made?

The governing bodies have agreed to consult on the proposal. After the consultation closes, they will consider all responses. Each governing body will then decide whether to proceed.

How can I share my views?

Please read the full proposal at Thomas A Becket Junior School - Federation Information and send your written responses to the schools or share online via this link. You can tell us what you support, raise concerns or suggest changes. Details of any parent and carer consultation meetings are in the consultation proposal document and can be found on the link above.

When would the federation start?

If both governing bodies decide to proceed, the proposed start date is **September 2027**. The schools will communicate the outcome after the governing bodies have made their decisions.