



Riverview C of E Primary and Nursery School

with Riverview Day Nursery

Every child matters, every moment counts

Headteacher: Mrs M Atkins

14th October 2024

Dear Parents, Staff, and members of the Riverview Community,

You will already know that we recently agreed that Mrs Mercy Atkins would become Executive Headteacher of Riverview Primary School and St Giles' Infant School. Following this appointment, we have experienced a number of positive benefits. Staff have shared professional development sessions, classes in both schools have shared outings and both schools have seen savings in their finances.

After in-depth discussions with the Governing Body, we have now decided to shift our strategic direction from academisation to the creation of a federation with St Giles'. This decision comes after careful consideration of the unique opportunities a federation presents for Riverview and the education of your children. A federation offers several compelling advantages for Riverview:

- **Shared Expertise and Resources:** A federation allows for closer collaboration between schools, enabling us to share best practices, resources, and expertise that best fit our vision and values. This includes curriculum development, professional development for staff, and even potential economies of scale in areas like procurement. This can translate into valuable financial stability and potentially more resources for our school.
- **Enhanced Leadership Support:** Mrs Atkins' existing leadership role at both schools ensures strong, consistent leadership across a federation. This can be particularly valuable for a smaller school like ours, allowing us to strengthen strategic development, curriculum planning, and staff training.
- **Preserving Our Identity:** Unlike academisation, a federation allows Riverview to retain its unique identity, ethos, and admissions policy. The school will remain a voluntary aided, maintained school within the local authority framework.

What This Means for You:

We want to assure you that Riverview will remain the nurturing and stimulating environment that you already know. Our core values, dedicated staff, and close-knit community will not change.

What Happens Next?

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout this process. Over the coming weeks, a working party from the Governing Body will be holding a series of meetings to



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discuss the proposed federation in more detail. We will also be providing further information through our school website and newsletters.

We understand that any change can raise questions and we encourage you to reach out to us with these questions. Later, we will hold a more formal consultation as part of a well-rehearsed government federation process. We are confident that a federation with St Giles' is the best path forward for ensuring the continued success of Riverview CofE VA Primary School and that it is the best way to hold on to all that makes Riverview the school it is today.

Kind regards,

Elaine Letchford
Chair of Governors