



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING
15 March 2010**

ITEM 6

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and
Young People

Schools Federation

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the outcome of the consultation on the proposed addition of Rosehill Infant and Nursery School (RI) to the existing federation of St James' Church of England (Aided) Junior School (SJJ) and St James' Church of England (Aided) Infant and Nursery School (SJI).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The proposed federation was subject to wide consultation, followed by a decision by each school's governing body. This report formally records the outcome of this process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The opportunity to consider the addition of RI to the existing federation of SJJ and SJI arose after several unsuccessful attempts by the governing body of RI to replace their previous headteacher. The Children and Young People's Department worked closely with the governors of each school to support their consideration of federation.
- 3.2 The two governing bodies agreed to consult on joining RI to the existing federation of SJJ and SJI within a hard federation, whereby they would be governed by a single governing body under the statutory framework of Department for Children, Schools and Families Federation Regulations.
- 3.3 Under hard federation schools work together for the benefit of all pupils and their school communities. Schools in federations continue to be individual schools, and admission to each school continues to be determined by the appropriate admission authority. Federation often entails the sharing of resources under a single headteacher. The sharing of staff expertise and resources can be beneficial to all schools, avoiding duplication of roles and resources.
- 3.4 In accordance with statutory guidance, proposals for federation are made by governing bodies. Each school consulted with a range of stakeholders including parents, staff, other city schools, trade unions and local centres of worship. The results of this consultation were reported to the governors of both schools to inform

their decision around federation.

- 3.5 The governing bodies met separately on 11 November 2009 to consider the consultation responses and both voted in favour of federation. The Children and Young People's Department has worked closely with the Diocesan Director of Education in supporting the governors. A single governing body has now been established and the federation is firmly in place.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. The option not to consult on federation was considered but, given the advantages of federation, was not chosen.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Under federation the schools' individual budgets can be pooled, giving rise to economies of scale in staffing and resources.
- 1.2 The decision to federate has a neutral effect on overall school budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 Under federation schools are bound by Department for Children, Schools and Families Federation Regulations.
- 2.2 A new statutory instrument has been drawn up to reflect the composition of the new governing body hence confirming their legal powers as governors of all three schools.
- 2.3 As SJJ and SJI are Church of England Aided schools and RI is a community school the federation is known as a "mixed federation." It has been agreed that the Church of England Diocese will continue to appoint the majority of governors.

Personnel

- 3.1 The Headteacher of the SJJ and SJI federation will become the Executive Headteacher of SJJ, SJI and RI. There are no other personnel implications as a direct and immediate result of federation.
- 3.2 Staff at SJJ and SJI will continue to be employed by the Church of England Diocese while the staff at Rosehill will continue to be employed by the Local Authority. It has been agreed that all new appointments to either school will be employees of the Church of England Diocese and will be contracted to work with any school across the federation.

Equalities impact

- 4. The decision to federate has no direct equalities impact.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5. The proposal relates to the Corporate Plan priority of supporting everyone in learning and achieving, focusing on the outcome of providing learning opportunities to raise skills levels for all.