



**Bloomsbury  
Nursery School**



**Proposal for Federation of  
Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School  
Under One Head Teacher and One Governing Board**

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Governing Boards of Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School have been working closely together with a Service Level Agreement in place since 05/01/22 and wish to propose the federation of both schools.

The opportunity to consider Federation has resulted from our concerns with regards to the sustainability of the two Nursery Schools. This is a national concern for Maintained Nursery Schools, some of which have had to close or are facing closure. Furthermore, a large number of maintained nursery schools have already undergone the process of federation in Birmingham and beyond. Of the 27 MNS in Birmingham, 19 schools have now federated.

The Governing Boards have both voted to undertake consultation with regard to federation. This document sets out our proposal and how we think this federation could work. It sets out what federation would mean for children, parents, staff and the local community, and it forms part of a six-week consultation process, during which we are seeking the views of everyone who has an interest in the school. It includes a response form for you to complete and return.

At the end of the consultation period, the Governing Boards of the two schools will make a final decision on whether to federate, taking into account everyone's views and comments.

## **Background**

Birmingham City Council is the admission authority for both schools within the proposed federation. Since January 2022 the two schools have been working together, with one Head Teacher; sharing good practice, making cost savings and with the two Governing Boards supporting this to enable this to continue.

## **What is a Federation?**

When two or more schools work together under a single Governing Board, this is called a federation. This single Governing Board can share resources and expertise across the schools and work to raise standards and improve teaching and leadership of the schools. ***Our vision for the Federation is two distinct schools, each with their own unique character, working together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.***

## **This would mean:**

The two schools would remain as separate schools but under the leadership of one Head Teacher;  
A single, shared vision and ethos;  
A single Governing Board responsible for governance and staffing in both schools;  
Shared leadership of the two schools;

Shared policies and procedures.

### **Each school would:**

Keep its own name, identity and uniform;  
Have its own separate budget;  
Keep the current arrangements for admissions;  
Be accountable for children's attainment in the EYFS;  
Have separate OFSTED inspections.

### **What would federation mean for children?**

A consistent approach to teaching and learning for all children;  
Increased capacity to meet the needs of children through sharing of knowledge and resources;  
More opportunities to share and manage expertise and facilities effectively thereby enriching the children's learning experience;  
The possibility of combined community activities e.g. trips.

### **What would federation mean for parents?**

Reassurance that your child will benefit from:  
A sustainable Maintained Nursery School in their local community;  
Quality of practice/education across both schools;  
Shared expertise and resources across both schools;  
Consistency of communication and policies;  
The opportunity for shared activities, e.g. school trips.

### **What would federation mean for staff?**

The proposal is for shared leadership between the two schools: this will mean one Head Teacher;  
It is proposed that each school would have its own Deputy Head teacher, reporting directly to the Head Teacher;  
The vision would be for leadership across both schools to work more effectively together, sharing expertise and encouraging a culture of shared opportunities e.g. Peer Reviews, CPD etc.  
All Staff will continue to be employed on the same conditions of service;  
Stronger collaboration and the size of the combined schools will allow for increased opportunities for continuing professional development and career development;  
A common approach to teaching and learning, along with a single system of target setting, assessing, moderating teaching and learning, and monitoring pupil progress;  
Development of continuity and quality by identifying best practice from both schools and applying it across the federation;  
It is anticipated, however, that staff will continue and extend partnership working with staff from both schools, and take advantage of the additional CPD opportunities that the federation will provide, in terms of shared expertise and resources, and shared training etc.

### **What would federation mean for our local community?**

Bloomsbury Maintained Nursery School & Goodway Maintained Nursery School currently work collaboratively as a cluster, with the Head teacher leading both the Ladywood District and the Perry Barr District Early Years DLP Projects, along with the Birmingham Early Years district networks.

Two schools, under one leadership, will enable both districts to continue to have access to a Local Authority Maintained Nursery School, which is led and governed by one Governing Body

Other service providers, in the positive support of children and families, will be used more effectively in the work that they do;  
A commitment to a stable, sustainable provision in the immediate local area.

### **What would change for the Governing Boards of each school?**

Under federation the two Governing Boards would cease to exist and a new federated Governing Board of 10 members would be formed, comprising:

1 Head Teacher

1 Local Authority Governor

1 Staff Governor (maximum number allowed per regulations)

2 Parent Governors

5 Co-opted Governors, (of which 1 is staff )

The members of the Governing Board will be elected/appointed with due regard to their skills (per current regulations), and the needs identified by the skills' audits undertaken.

### **Opportunities to discuss the proposal and ask questions**

**This consultation starts on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and ends on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Consultation sessions will be held for parents, staff and others with an interest in either school. These will be informal sessions where people can speak to school Governors and staff from both schools, look at the information about the proposed federation, make comments and fill out the Federation Response Forms. Anyone is welcome to attend any session.

Bloomsbury Nursery School: 15<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am

Goodway Nursery School: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 9:30am

This proposal, and the Federation Response Form are also available on both school websites:

[www.bloomsbury.bham.sch.uk](http://www.bloomsbury.bham.sch.uk)

[www.goodwayn.bham.sch.uk](http://www.goodwayn.bham.sch.uk)

Additional paper copies of these are also available from both school offices.

How to comment on the proposal

Please complete the Federation Response Form and return it to either school office by 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

You can email or write to the Chair of the Governing Board at either school as follows:

[Tamarah.March@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Tamarah.March@birmingham.gov.uk)

Bloomsbury Nursery School  
Bloomsbury Street  
Birmingham  
B75BX

[N.Shergold@Goodway.bham.sch.uk](mailto:N.Shergold@Goodway.bham.sch.uk)

Goodway Nursery School  
Goodway Road  
Great Barr  
Birmingham  
B448RL

The deadline for submitting written representations is 25<sup>th</sup> June 24.

### **What happens next?**

After the consultation period ends on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the Governing Boards will meet to review all the responses before making an informed decision. This will be communicated to children, parents, staff and others with an interest in the school by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

If a decision to proceed with the proposal is made, the intention is for federation to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.