



## **Barrow C of E Primary School & Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School**

# **Federation Consultation 2025**

## **Introduction**

The Governing Bodies of both Barrow C of E Primary School and Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary & Foundation Unit are proposing to join together in one Federation. This will build upon the partnership that the two schools currently have in place.

The Governing Bodies believe that moving into federation would be in the best interest of all parties, benefiting teaching and learning and the support given to children, families and our local communities.

To be clear the federation proposed here is that the two schools remain separate entities in law and they keep their separate budgets. However they are managed by a single joint Governing Body and run by a unified leadership team.

This Consultation Document explains further what this would mean for parents, pupils, staff and interested parties. At the outset we would be clear that no school or premises will close as a result of the proposed federation. There will be no change in the character of the two schools nor in our mission to educate children within a Christian ethos.

As well as sending this document out to parents and other interested parties there will be drop-in meetings at both schools. This consultation document can also be found online on each schools' own website.

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**The consultation will commence**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
and will end on  
**4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**  
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## Federation Consultation 2025 / Timetable

DATE	TASK	RESPONSIBLE
January 2025	Commence preparation of consultation document	Joint Working Party
week of 3rd February	<b>Approval of consultation document</b>	Both Governing Bodies
week of 17th February	Release of consultation document to interested parties via post	Joint Working Party
24th February	Formal publication of consultation and start of consultation period	Each school will provide the consultation document to their communities
6th March	Staff consultation meeting Barrow	Headteacher and Chairs of Governors supported by Joint Working Party
12th March	Staff consultation meeting Duddon St. Peter's	
18th March	Drop-in meeting for parents & carers at Duddon site	
27th March	Drop-in meeting for parents & carers at Barrow site	
4th April	End of consultation period	Both Governing Bodies
7th - 21st April	Collation of consultation responses into a report for governors	Joint Working Party
8th May	Joint meeting of governing bodies to consider consultation report	Both Governing Bodies
12th May	Commission Joint Instrument of Governance	Both Governing Bodies
TBA	Final Joint Governing Bodies meeting to make final decision.	Governors supported by Joint Working Party
If the decision is that both schools agree to form a federation, then the following series of actions will take place.		
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Application to Chester Diocese to support the decision. Notice to the Secretary of State for Education of the decision.	Governors supported by Joint Working Party

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Timetable for dissolving the separate governing bodies and the incorporation of the new Federated Governing Body to be confirmed.	Joint Working Party
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	Parent and staff governor elections commence. The Local Authority invited to nominate an LA governor	Joint Working Party
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Incorporation* of new Federated Governing Body & First Formal Meeting	Joint Working Party
<p><i>*Incorporation Date: On the federation date the two governing bodies are dissolved and the new single governing body of the federation is incorporated. All land and property which before the federation date was held by a governing body of a federating school transfers to the governing body of the new federation.</i></p>		

## **Briefing from the Joint Working Party**

Barrow C of E Primary and Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary have shared a headteacher for a couple of years now, and partnership working has proven beneficial in the production of teaching resources, shared sporting involvement and staff development.

We believe that moving on from partnership working to forming a Federation will bring benefits to the pupils and communities by:

### **1. Improved Resources and Support**

Federation allows schools to share resources, such as specialist staff, facilities, and equipment. This can lead to a richer educational experience for pupils and more professional development opportunities for staff.

### **2. Enhanced Leadership and Governance**

Federations have a shared leadership and governance structure. This can provide stronger strategic direction and decision-making, as well as shared accountability and support.

### **3. Broader Curriculum and Extracurricular Activities**

Federated schools can offer a wider range of subjects and extracurricular activities. For instance, one school might have specialised teachers in the arts while another focuses on sciences, allowing pupils to benefit from both.

### **4. Improved Pupil Outcomes**

Sharing best practices and collaborating on teaching strategies can lead to improved pupil performance. Federations can implement successful initiatives across both schools.

**5. Staff Development and Retention** Teachers and staff can benefit from greater professional development opportunities and career progression within the federation. This can help in retaining experienced and talented staff.

We would emphasise that becoming a Federation does not mean the schools become one establishment on two sites: the schools will continue to have their own identity, their own uniform and their own budget. There will be no loss of staff posts from the change, nor will there be any change to the education ethos of each school.

Schools within the federation will receive separate inspections from OFSTED and Church School Inspector teams (SIAMS) just as they do now.

The governing bodies that currently exist would be dissolved and a new single governing body set up. It is likely that some individuals that currently serve will decide to offer their support to the new Federation governing body and this continuity will mean that the new board will have insight into the needs of each school within the new arrangement. Please see the table below to see a comparison of what exists now, and what the new Governing Body could be like.

Barrow CE Primary (12)	Duddon St Peter's (12)	<b>Proposed Federation (13)</b>
Headteacher	Headteacher	<b>Headteacher</b>
2 Parent Governors	2 Parent Governors	<b>2 Parent Governors</b>
1 Teaching Staff governor	1 Staff Governor	<b>2 Teaching Staff governors</b>
2 Foundation Governors	3 Foundation Governors	<b>3 Foundation Governors</b>
5 co-opted governors	4 co-opted governors	<b>4 co-opted governors</b>
1 Local Authority governor	1 Local Authority governor	<b>1 Local Authority governor</b>

## **Responding to this Consultation**

You can make your views known by

- ◆ completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this consultation document;
- ◆ by email to either school's office with "Federation Consultation" as the subject line;
- ◆ send a letter to either school office.

The postal and email addresses are below.

Barrow CE Primary School	Duddon St. Peter's Primary School
Great Barrow Chester Cheshire <b>CH3 7HW</b>	Tarporley Rd Duddon Tarporley Cheshire <b>CW6 0EL</b>
Email: <a href="mailto:admin@barrowce.cheshire.sch.uk">admin@barrowce.cheshire.sch.uk</a> <a href="http://www.barrowcofeschool.com">www.barrowcofeschool.com</a> phone: <b>01244 445154</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:Katie.Pierce@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk">Katie.Pierce@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dstp.cheshire.sch.uk">www.dstp.cheshire.sch.uk</a> phone: <b>01829 781366</b>

**Thank you** for reading our consultation document,  
and we trust that you will take the opportunity to let us know  
your thoughts and opinions on this federation proposal.



**BARROW**  
CoFE PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Duddon St. Peter's**  
CE Primary School & Foundation Unit

**Parent/Carer questionnaire:** Please complete and return to the school office **by 4th April 2025**

Question <b>ONE</b> : Please circle one of the responses below			
I am a Parent / Carer	Teacher or Staff member	Governor	Other interested party (please detail): _____

Question <b>TWO</b> : Which school(s) are you associated with?		
Barrow CE Primary	Duddon St. Peter's CE	Both

Question <b>THREE</b> : Do you agree with the Federation Proposal?				
Definitely Agree	Tend to Agree	Unsure	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree
Please add any comments:				

Question <b>FOUR</b> : Do you agree with the proposed structure of the Federation Governing Body?				
Definitely Agree	Tend to Agree	Unsure	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree
Please add any comments:				

Are there any further comments that you would like to make?