



## Beckley & Peasmarsh Federation



20 February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have heard in the news that the national context for schools in England is changing rapidly. Many schools have converted to academies and the result of this is that local authorities' school improvement services are decreasing.

In the future, schools will be expected to operate in more sustainable collaborative groups and local authorities will focus on championing pupils and parents. Also, recent changes in the funding formula for schools will impact upon small schools too; balancing the budget in each school will get harder and harder.

In the last year we have worked very successfully as a Federation of Beckley and Peasmarsh Schools, sharing resources, staff training and executive leadership, for example. There is evidence that formal collaborations between larger groups of schools leads to improved learning for all children. Schools cannot become isolated as the landscape changes.

Therefore it has become apparent that for small schools such as ours to remain sustainable, the larger collaboration of schools is needed to share costs, training of staff and resources. Hence the governors have made a decision to begin exploration of further collaborations with groups of schools or multi academy trusts.

In the next few months we will be exploring and talking to other collaborations of schools, attending an East Sussex conference, a local Academy Fair and inviting Christian based multi academy trusts to present to the governing body. We have the responsibility, alongside the diocese, to make the decision about our next steps, whether that be collaboration or academisation.

I will keep you informed of developments with this and future consultations as we seek to ensure a sustainable future for both our schools.

Yours sincerely

Jane Burnett  
Chair of Governors  
Beckley & Peasmarsh Federation