

10 October 2016

Notes from Hope, St Mary's, Westbury, Worthen Consultation Regarding the Amalgamation Governors' Meeting

In attendance:

Chris Mathews – Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency

Louise Smith – HR

Jane Gill – HT

Governors of the Federation

- Governors received the presentation from the local authority which confirmed the earliest date for amalgamation would be September 2017.
- Governors noted that:
 - Shropshire Council is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate the primary schools in Hope, Worthen and Westbury in the academic year 2017/18
 - That this proposal follows the governors' decision in July 2016 to consult on the consolidation of education provision onto a single site at Worthen
 - That the Council is gathering views from all stakeholders to inform the decision making process by Cabinet
- Governors recognised the substantial challenges faced by the three schools over recent years including the recruitment and retention of Headteachers for each school, Ofsted inspection judgements that are not yet good for two of the schools, falling pupil numbers and associated pressures on budgets
- Governors confirmed their view and vision for the longer term future of education in the community, that good and better outcomes for all pupils can only be secured through the with the amalgamation of the schools on the Worthen site.
- Governors noted that the Council would work with the staff and trade unions to secure the ongoing employment of the current workforce, which for the majority will be at Worthen
- As part of the consultation process staff had had separate meeting, at which they had the opportunity to ask further questions, and that they will be provided with personal support in the event that a decision is taken to amalgamate the schools
- Governors also noted that:
 - In the event that the decision is taken to amalgamate the schools, the Council would declare the school buildings and land at Hope and Westbury surplus to requirements

Appendix 2b

- It will be for the Diocese of Hereford, as owners of the buildings, and Shropshire Council, as owners of the land at Hope CE Primary, to consider the future use of the buildings
 - Expansion works will be required at the Worthen site – the Diocese and Council will be seeking to maximise any receipts from disposals to fund these works
- Governors expressed their support for the work that Shropshire Council had undertaken with governors to reach this stage. Governors confirmed the need to ensure that capital works to expand accommodation and facilities at the Worthen site needed to happen quickly in order to ensure that the school had the capacity to accommodate all children and pupils from the beginning of September 2017.