Your Views

ABOUT YOU

Governing Body of:	**West Tyne Church Schools (Henshaw CE and Greenhead CE Primary Schools)**

We are the Governors of the Federation of these two schools.

We grew out of the West Tyne Federation which previously included two other schools – Herdley Bank (closed) and Whitfield CE (now part of Good Shepherd MAT).

Haltwhistle lies between our schools, which both became Primary Schools in 2013.

Both schools were inspected in 2017 and were graded Good.

Both schools are maintaining a balanced budget following staffing reorganisation, although Greenhead has a significant deficit due to actions taken (as directed by NCC) as the previous Federation collapsed.

Mrs Sarah Hutchinson was appointed as Headteacher in 2017.

The current Governors have been in place for nearly two years.

YOUR VIEWS (continued)

1) How do you think surplus places can be reduced in schools in Haydon Bridge and Hexham Partnerships? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

- By investing in HBHS and bringing it up to acceptable and desirable standards in a very short time
- By offering genuine support to HBHS to oversee this, appointing a quality team
- Build relationships with feeder schools to allow confidence in HBHS to grow
- Accept the reality that 2-Tier arrangement is the ONLY pattern in West Northumberland. This would secure the roll in Primary Schools in the area, even though some rationalisation of primary schools might be inevitable.

2) Will the current structure of schools in the west of the county remain financially and educationally viable for the next 25 years? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

Not without investment and a realistic arrangement of schools so that the number of surplus places is minute

3) Should schools in the west of the county receive additional capital investment and if so, how should this be invested? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

- Obviously every effort should be made to maximise the amount of funding available
- LA must consider the costs of transport with each alternative plan

4) Do colleagues see any merit in the establishment of a local authority Multi-academy trust and would your school want to join such an entity? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*
• No. We would be interested in considering a Newcastle Diocesan-supported MAT or Mixed MAT

5) If you have any other ideas or proposals that do not fit with the questions above please attach them as additions to this document.

West Northumberland needs:

- the very best schools at all levels
- viable choice at secondary level
- a variety of education in different secondary schools – academic and genuinely vocational, exploring commercial partnerships for apprenticeships

Other points raised by Governors of our Federation:

- There needs to be a single school structure across the area (which would only ever be two tier)
- We can't see Haydon Bridge ever being viable being so close to Hexham
- The removal of Haydon Bridge and then automatic direct move from Henshaw/Greenhead to the Hexham High School as a secondary school would be very positive for retention in KS2 and therefore for numbers across the schools. This seems the best use of resources and the way to keep local primary schools sustainable.

Some other questions:

- In a landscape where everything is publicly known about maintained schools but not about academies, will the Consultation regarding the option of an enlarged QEHS serving the whole district give open and comprehensive details of how the Hadrian Learning Trust will meet the broad learning aims of ALL students from the district?
- Consultation has shown an integrity within the West Northumberland school community. Are we not at the point at which the mixed economy (2-tier, 3-tier, through-schools) must be discarded in favour of a consistent and coherent pattern of schools?

PLEASE RETURN THIS REPONSE FORM AND ANY OTHER COMMENTS TO:
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