



Wellfield Schools



To: Families and Community Stakeholders

Subject: Consultation on Proposed Federation of South Wellfield First School and Wellfield Middle School

Dear Families and Stakeholders,

We are writing to share an important proposal regarding the future of South Wellfield First School and Wellfield Middle School. Both schools have a long history of working closely together and share a commitment to providing the very best education for our children. In response to changing circumstances locally and nationally, the governing bodies of both schools are exploring the possibility of forming a **formal federation**.

What is a Federation?

A federation is a legal arrangement where two or more schools share a single governing body and one headteacher, while each school retains its own name, identity, budget, and staff. Day-to-day life in each school would remain largely unchanged, but federation would allow us to work more strategically together for the benefit of all pupils and families.

Why Are We Considering This?

Falling birth rates and financial pressures are affecting schools across North Tyneside. By federating voluntarily, we can:

- Protect the three-tier system locally.
- Guarantee a seamless journey for children from Early Years through Year 8.
- Strengthen educational continuity and opportunities.
- Share resources and expertise to ensure long-term sustainability.

This is a proactive step to secure the future of both schools and avoid the risk of forced changes later.

The Consultation Process

Before any decision is made, we want to hear your views. The consultation will run for **six weeks from 5 January to 16 February 2026**. During this time:

- The full proposal and a family-friendly summary will be available on both school websites.
- We will hold **town hall meetings** (daytime and evening) and **drop-in sessions** for questions.
- Staff briefings will take place in each school.
- You can share your feedback via an **online form** or paper forms available from the school offices.



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All responses will be considered carefully before governors make a final decision in **March 2026**. If approved, federation would begin in **September 2026**.

Next Steps

Please read the attached proposal document for full details, including the vision, benefits, governance arrangements, and answers to frequently asked questions. We have also prepared a shorter, family-friendly version for quick reference.

Your views matter. This is a significant decision for our schools and community, and we want to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

A.richardson-brown@southwellfieldfs.org.uk or **susan.winter@wellfieldmiddleschool.org.uk**.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to secure the best possible future for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Murphy

Chair of Governors, South Wellfield First School

Alex Giles

Chair of Governors, Wellfield Middle School