

Update on proposal to federate

Dear Parents and Carers,

04.02.22

The consultation period for the proposal to federate has now closed and both Governing Boards have considered the unanimously positive feedback from parents, staff, the Local Authority and Department for Education.

The Governing Board of Woodside School, at their meeting on Monday 24th January 2022, and the Governing Board of Steam Mills School, at their meeting on Thursday 27th January 2022, agreed by unanimous votes at both meetings to form the Federation of Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools.

Both Governing Boards adopted a new draft Instrument of Governance, which has been forwarded to the Education Department and Legal Department at Gloucestershire County Council for the relevant legal documents to be drawn up.

The existing Governing Boards of Woodside and Steam Mills Primary Schools will be dissolved on 14th March 2022. The new Governing Board of the Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools will be constituted on the same day.

The new Governing Board will be comprised of 2 parent governors, 1 LA governor, 1 staff Governor, 1 Headteacher and 7 co-opted governors.

Please see the information below about the parent governor election process.

As was made clear in the consultation documents, there will be no change to the day to day running of both schools as a direct result of this federation.

Yours faithfully,

G. Lewis, Chair of the Governing Board of Steam Mills Primary School

A. Davis, Chair of the Governing Board of Woodside Primary School

Parent Governor Election

We have a vacancy for two parent governors, from 14th March 2022. Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending the federated schools. They serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the governing board.

You might like to look at the information for prospective governors on the Gloucestershire County Council website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors

The governing board has a vital role to play in making sure every child receives the best possible education. This is achieved by ensuring that governors have the necessary skills and commitment to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The particular skills that governing boards need will vary and will include personal qualities and capabilities, such as the capacity and willingness to learn and work as part of a team. It is

expected that governors will make use of the various training opportunities available to them and play a full part in the work of the governing board.

Eligibility and Disqualification

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of his or her election or appointment and cannot be a registered pupil at the school. A person cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A parent governor must have a child registered in the main school (ie Reception year up to Year Six).

A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if he or she:

- fails to attend the governing body meetings – without the consent of the governing body – for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting missed (not applicable to ex officio governors);
- is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order, an interim bankruptcy restrictions order, a debt relief restrictions order, or an interim debt relief restrictions order;
- has had his or her estate sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- is subject to:
 - i) a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;
 - ii) a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002;
 - iii) a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002;
 - iv) an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a County Court administration order);
- has been removed from the office of trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity, or under Section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- has been removed from office as an elected governor within the last five years;
- is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people;
- is barred from any regulated activity relating to children;
- is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 or section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008;
- is disqualified from working with children or from registering for child-minding or providing day-care;
- is disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the Secretary of State;
- has been sentenced to three months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor;

- has received a prison sentence of two and a half years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more;
- has been convicted and fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school or educational premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- refuses a request by the clerk to make an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a criminal records certificate.

If you are a parent or carer and are interested in becoming a governor, please submit your nomination (self-nomination is acceptable), which will need to be with the school by 12.00 noon on Friday 11th Feb. You can complete the attached form digitally and return it to admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk or to admin@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk Alternatively, please print it or ask for a paper copy to complete and hand it in.

We are very grateful to our previous and current parent governors and to Mr Coleman, who has expressed an interest in being re-elected. If there are more nominations than vacancies, a ballot will be held and you will be sent a voting paper.

Federation of Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools
Election of Parent Governors

Nomination Form

Name:

Address:

Please tick✓

I declare that I have a child on roll at Steam Mills or Woodside Primary School and am eligible and willing to serve as a parent governor

I declare that I have read and understood the disqualification criteria

I understand that the post requires me to hold a DBS certificate

Signature:

Nominated by: (Signature, name in capitals and address; self-nomination is acceptable)

Candidate's statement for inclusion on ballot paper. Please describe the skills and qualities you would be able to contribute to the Governing Board:

Completed nomination must be returned to the school by 12.00 noon on Friday 11th Feb