



Woodside Primary School  
Brierley Road  
Ruardean Woodside  
Gloucestershire  
GL17 9XP  
Tel: 01594 542287

17/6/22

Dear Parents,

The Governing Body of the Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools Federation were contacted last month by the Governors of Soudley School to ask if we would be prepared to provide leadership support to Soudley from September 2022, as their long –serving Head teacher is retiring at the end of the Summer Term.

We said that we would consider the request if it would result in positive learning and budget outcomes for all three schools and that the costs of leadership were shared equally. We asked Mrs Davis to draw up a feasible leadership plan that would ensure that leadership at Steam Mills and Woodside remained secure, and preferably strengthened, as well as ensuring leadership support for Soudley, and to have the plan costed by the local authority finance officers for Steam Mills, Woodside and Soudley schools.

The leadership plan and costings were provided to governors to study ahead of an Extraordinary Governing Body Meeting on Thursday 16th June to consider the request from Governors of Soudley School. At the meeting, the Governing Board of the Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools Federation decided to offer leadership support to Soudley School and the main points of the leadership plan approved are:

- Mrs Davis to expand her role to become Executive Head across the three schools, responsible for teaching and learning, finance, staff, safeguarding and the overall operation of the three schools.
- Mrs Fawkes to become non-teaching Deputy Headteacher supporting Mrs Davis across the three schools with the above and being responsible for the development and monitoring of Early Years provision across the three schools. An EYFS teacher will be appointed to teach reception class at Woodside. There is senior leadership already in place at school to provide a point of contact when Mrs Davis and Mrs Fawkes are at Steam Mills or Soudley.
- Mrs Thomas at Steam Mills to move from an Assistant Head role to become the teaching (3 days a week) Deputy Head, responsible for the day to day running of the school and also taking responsibility for the curriculum across the three schools. Miss Carlson will continue to job share with Mrs Thomas.
- A senior leader will be appointed internally at Soudley School to provide a point of contact when Mrs Davis and Mrs Fawkes are at Steam Mills or Woodside.

**Executive Head:** Mrs M Davis  
**Email:** [admin@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Deputy Head:** Mrs J Fawkes  
**Website:** [www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk)

The governors are confident that the leadership plan will have a positive impact on Steam Mills and Woodside Schools by securing and strengthening the leadership in both schools. It will extend the clear management structure and team and share expertise across the schools for the benefit of the teaching and learning of all the children.

The costings show a positive cost benefit for all three schools, enabling us to continue to offer our level of staffing and provision at a time when many schools in the area are facing budget problems due to rising costs.

The Governing Board's strategic aim is to secure the long-term future of both schools as financially viable, prospering, small, friendly, village schools, each with their own identity, and to continually improve the standard of education and welfare they offer to the children in difficult financial times. We are confident that the leadership support we are going to provide to Soudley will help us ensure this.

If you would like to ask any questions about the changes, could you please email the clerk to the governors [clerk@smwf.org.uk](mailto:clerk@smwf.org.uk) to register your interest and we will arrange an information question and answer session for parents by Zoom and email the time and link to you.

Yours faithfully,

The Governing Board of the Steam Mills and Woodside Primary Schools Federation.