

We CARE

Welcoming all Community Achievement Respect Encouragement



**Youlgrave, All Saints' Primary School
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Executive Headteacher: Miss Teresa Nicholls

13th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you jointly as the Chairs of Governors of Youlgrave All Saints' and Biggin C of E Primary Schools to let you know that both governing bodies have begun to explore the possibility of forming a *federation* between our schools.

A federation is a formal partnership in which two or more schools share a single governing body and leadership structure while retaining their own individual identities, sites, admissions arrangements and distinct Church school ethos. Each school remains very much part of – and committed to – its own village community.

Our current position of sharing a headteacher, as well as some initial collaboration between the schools, has opened up the potential opportunities of a federation. At this stage, we want to assure you that no decisions have been made. We are simply beginning an exploratory process to understand whether forming a federation could strengthen leadership and staffing capacity, enable further collaboration and financial savings through shared resources, improve the long-term sustainability of both schools, and provide the best possible educational experience for all our children.

The two governing bodies have agreed to form a joint committee with representatives from each school's governing body, as well as our headteacher, and representatives from both the Diocese of Derby and Derbyshire County Council (Local Authority), to explore the options and develop a proposal.

Through this joint committee the governing bodies will gather information and evaluate the potential benefits and risks, seek advice from governance, HR and legal specialists through the Local Authority and the Diocese.

In addition, we are planning an open consultation in which all parents, carers, staff and stakeholders will have the opportunity to share views ahead of any final decisions being made.

Your voice will be an important part of this process.

The intent of this letter is to advise you of the launch of the consultation. The following pages advise on the various details such as the timeline, how to access the federation proposal, how to get more information and how to respond should you wish to.

We appreciate that you may have questions and we are committed to keeping you updated as our discussions progress. For now, please be assured that our priority remains the wellbeing and education of every child in both our schools.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Edge

Chair of Governors

Biggin C of E Primary School

Mark Shearing

Co-Chair of Governors

Youlgrave All Saints' C of E Primary School

Sandra McCurrach

Deputy Chair of Governors

Biggin C of E Primary School

Rachel Shooter

Co-Chair of Governors

Youlgrave All Saints' C of E Primary School

Biggin and Youlgrave school federation consultation process

How long will the consultation period last?	Six weeks from the 13 th April to the 26 th May 2026
Where can I get a copy of the school federation proposal?	It can be obtained online here [link]. A paper copy can be collected from Youlgrave/Biggin school
How can I talk to someone about the proposal?	There will be drop-in sessions on [Youlgrave] the 22 nd April and Governors will be available at school between 8.30-9.30am, 12.30-1.30pm and 5.00 until 6.00pm/ [Biggin] the 23 rd April and Governors will be available at school at 8.30-9.30am, 12.30-1.30pm and 3.00 until 5.00pm. There will be a final drop-in on the [Youlgrave]29 th April/[Biggin] 30 th April between 5 and 6pm
How can I respond to the proposal?	You can respond at one of the sessions above or by completing a response form. A response form is available from school, and is also available online here . Responses can be returned to the school office or emailed to Mandy/Jane at enquiries@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk
When should I respond by?	Responses would be very welcome at any time during the consultation period – but ideally the sooner the better. The deadline for responses will be Sunday the 26 th May 2026.