



Rotherhithe Primary
Rotherhithe New Road
London
SE16 2PL

Tel: 0207 2371586
Fax: 0207 2373653
Email: office@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk

Dog Kennel Hill Primary School
East Dulwich
London
SE22 8AB

Tel: 0207 2741829
Fax: 0207 9240735
Email: office@dkh.southwark.sch.uk



1 November 2017

Proposal to move from a soft federation to a hard federation between Rotherhithe and Dog Kennel Hill Primary Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Bodies of Dog Kennel Hill and Rotherhithe primary schools have decided to enter into a formal consultation process with parents and staff about the proposed formation of Hard Federation between the two schools.

This decision has been driven by the challenges DKH has faced in recruiting a substantive headteacher, despite repeated attempts, and recognising that there is a major challenge for all schools in leadership recruitment, especially in London. Furthermore, our schools have been collaborating closely and very successfully since May 2014 resulting in impressive changes and improvements for DKH.

The Governors of DKH and RPS have worked together to agree the terms of the consultation, the details of which are in the accompanying document.

The consultation process will start today, 1 November, with the issue of the attached proposal to all parents and staff in both schools. The consultation will last for six weeks from today until **Wednesday, 13th December at 3.30 pm.**

While there is a lot of detail in this consultation document, we ask that you read it carefully and if you have any questions, concerns or points you would like to raise with the Governing Bodies, that you do so using one of the three routes below:

1. There will be a meeting for all parents and carers on **Thursday 16th November at 6pm** at RPS where there will be representation from the school leadership team and both Governing Bodies.
2. There will be three one-hour drop-in meetings for parents, where there will be Governors and School Leadership Team members, at the following times so we hope all parents who wish to attend will find an occasion to suit their timetable:
Thursday 9th November at 9am (Junior Hall)
Tuesday 28th November at 3:30pm (Discovery Class Year 6)
Wednesday 6th December at 5.30pm (Junior Hall)

3. If you would like to make a representation in writing to the Governing Bodies, please submit it to: consultation@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk. Alternatively, address it to the Chair of Governors and hand it to the school office. All submissions should include your name, the name of your child (if you have more than one child in the school, you only need to name one) and their class.

While this consultation is about forming a Hard Federation between RPS and DKH, Governors and the SLT are interested in your views on wider issues. If you have other comments please do not hesitate to contact us following our usual procedures. .

We will be seeking the views of the children during November. The school councils of both schools will take a lead on this. We will be consulting all staff members of both schools through discussions and inviting their responses during the consultation period.

The Governing Bodies of both schools will consider all submissions received. They will be meeting separately and then together on **14th December 2017** to agree a formal decision on whether to form a Hard Federation or not and we will once again write to you to inform you of the outcome.

This letter and the consultation document is being given to all parents via the children's bookbags and will be available on the schools' websites. There will be reminders of dates in the weekly newsletters and by text.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,

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Ray Piggott
Chair of Governors
Rotherhithe Primary School

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Mary Henley
Chair of Governors
Dog Kennel Hill Primary School