



Dunchurch Schools' Federation

Dunchurch Schools' Federation Consultation Report January 2021

Contents

- Background
- Voting patterns
- Consultation 1 responses
- Consultation 2 responses
- Consultation 3 responses
- Appendices

Background

Over a period of time, the governing board of the Dunchurch Schools' Federation carefully considered how best to fulfil the vision for the future:

- Being a single school community, with clear values and aspirations that inspire each child to reach their full potential
- Being a single school community where everyone feels loved and valued
- Developing an enriching curriculum, through which all children engage in and enjoy learning

Minutes of previous board meetings record that governors were interested in the consultations because of the following perceived benefits:

Consultation 1

- Support from the diocese would be helpful
- Bring Dunchurch Infants and Dunchurch Boughton Juniors closer together
- Develop links with the Boughton Educational Trust

Consultation 2

- Coventry Diocese's record on school improvement and CPD
- The central services they offer are better than those currently accessed via the LA
- It will make it easier to develop ties with Leamington Hastings
- The regulatory framework that academy trusts operate under provides safeguards against potential future failures in leadership as seen in one of the federation's schools a few years ago.

Consultation 3

- Demonstrate the inclusive nature of the school
- Bring the admissions policy in line with the Coventry Diocese's preferred approach

Minutes show the following concerns had been identified:

Consultation 1

- The role of the Church in education is questioned by some

Consultation 2

- The governors and executive headteacher would have less autonomy in the way they run the school
- There would be a certain amount of change to manage

Consultation 3

- There may be a perception of Dunchurch Boughton Juniors weakening its links with the Church.

The consultation process had two strands: One for staff and one for parents and the wider community.

Staff consultation

The consultation document was shared on an almost weekly basis with staff via email. A small number of staff at DISN do not use email, so paper copies were made available. Informal meetings were held with the following groups of staff:

- Admin staff across both schools
- Teachers at DISN
- Teachers at DBJS
- TAs at DISN

- TAs at DBJS
- Nursery staff at DISN

A more formal online meeting was held on the 15th December. It was attended governors and staff from the Coventry Diocese Academy Trust, as well as 16 staff from the federation. A recording of the meeting has been made available digitally.

There are 94 members of staff across the federation: 51 at DISN and 43 at DBJS

Parents and the wider community consultation

The consultation document was shared with parents on multiple occasions digitally via the weekly newsletter. Parents were informed they could have paper copies too. The document was also shared with:

- All primary schools in Rugby Rural and East consortium area
- All schools in the Rugby Town consortium via the chair of that consortium
- All secondary schools in Rugby via the chair of the Rugby Secondary Consortium
- Rugby Children's Centre and DISN's biggest feeder nurseries, Montessori, Bizzy Tots and Nature Trails
- St. Peter's Church
- Dunchurch Baptist Church
- The Diocese of Coventry
- Warwickshire LA
- Dunchurch Boughton Educational Trust
- Bilton Grange School

An online meeting was held on the 15th December. It was attended governors and staff from the Coventry Diocese Academy Trust and 15 parents.

There are 243 pupils at DISN and 266 at DBJS, giving a total of 509 pupils in the federation, although some of these are siblings who share parents. Once this is taken into account there are approximately 806 parents.

All responses are included in appendix 1.

Voting Patterns in the parent consultation

The number of responses received were consistent throughout almost the whole consultation period, with ten or less a week received and Christmas understandably being the quietest time. The exception was the last week of the consultation:

7 day period beginning	Number of parent responses	
04/12/2020	10	
11/12/2020	8	
18/12/2020	1	Christmas
25/12/2020	1	Christmas
01/01/2021	2	
08/01/2021	9	
15/01/2021	4	
22/01/2021	112	

The response rate accelerated as we reached the end of the consultation, with 104 responses in the last 24 hours (as opposed to 44 received in the preceding 55 days). There were 31 forms filled in in the last ten minutes, with the average completion time being 26 seconds. By contrast, the average time taken by respondents in the first week of the consultation was 5 minutes and 29 seconds. 7 out of the last 10 forms submitted were completed in ten seconds or less.

The responses in the last 24 hours were mostly against all the consultations. In particular, they were consistently against consultation 2. The preceding 55 days had a much more even split.

Consultation 2: Should both Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery and Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior School join the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Last 24 hours	1	93	10
Preceding 55 days	14	20	8

As well as responses in the last 24 hours having a consistent view on consultation 2, there were consistencies in written comments too. For instance, three out of four consecutive text comments made the same spelling mistake:

I would be concerned that they would ~~lose~~ what makes them special by being restricted as an academy.

I strongly feel the school would ~~lose~~ its identity and be unable to make choices for itself it would be a real shame

I think the school will be worse off by joining in and becoming an academy which in my opinion tend to lower the standard of education in benefit of the career progression of the people working there

I would worry the infant school would ~~lose~~ a lot of its individuality and independent decision making if it were to become an academy.

Responses in the last 24 hours were, with one exception, were all anonymous:

	Anonymous	Named
Last 24 hours	103	1
Preceding 55 days	31	13

It was not possible for the technology used for the consultation (Microsoft Forms) to guarantee any one person has not completed the form multiple times.

Consultation 1: Should Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery become a Church of England school?

Staff

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	7	10	8	69
Percentage	7%	11%	9%	73%

Parents and the wider community

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	38	42	67	659
Percentage	4.7%	5.2%	8.3%	81.8%

Opinions expressed by staff:

Good to make both schools the same.

Good to have close links with the Boughton Educational Trust.

All the visions of the federation can be achieved without becoming a Church of England school.

I think it works well at the Juniors, so it would be good at the infants too.

Not the right time to be making/considering change.

This will create extra work for staff.

Opinions expressed by parents and the wide community:

Schools should be secular.

Good to make both schools the same.

All the schools aspirations can be achieved without being C of E.

Like the values and ethos of a Church School.

Like the extra support this would bring to the school would also be beneficial.

This will promote Christian faith over other religions.

It seems like a backward step in an increasingly secular world.

Good for continuity across both schools.

Good to have close links with the Boughton Educational Trust.

Not the right time to be making/considering change.

Don't want to share the support of the Boughton Education Trust across both schools.

It always was when I was at the school many years ago and I think it's an important part of the schools standing in the community.

The consultation was not shared with the community.

The text above summarises all unique opinions raised in textual responses. Governors can view the complete list of responses in the embedded Excel spreadsheet in appendix 1.

Other parties:

Governing board of Leamington Hastings: In favour

Coventry Diocese: In favour

Consultation 2: Should both Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery and Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior School join the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust?

Staff

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	5	18	2	69
Percentage	5%	19%	2%	73%

Parents and the wider community

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	15	113	18	660
Percentage	1.9%	14%	2.2%	81.8%

Other parties:

Governing board of Leamington Hastings: In favour

Coventry Diocese: In favour

Opinions expressed by staff:

Might lose the ethos of the school.

Good to have support of the trust.

Good to be closer to Leamington Hastings.

There would be better safeguards than with the LA if things go wrong.

Not the right time to be making/considering change – need to get the leadership of the schools sorted first.

Disagree with academies – I will resign if we do it.

Concerned about transferring the land. This will create work for the admin team.

I have concerns about job security

Opinions expressed by parents and the wide community:

Not heard good things about the trust.

I agree with this very much - however to declare I am a Trustee of the Diocese MAT. [Mandy Coalter]

It would help the ethos.

Not the right time to be making/considering change

It's a good academy trust and the head would have access to support and community

Concerns we will lose resources.

I support if good due diligence is done.

Extra support sounds good, but we want school to be for all pupils.

School is great now, so no need to change.

Concerned grounds would be sold for housing.

School would lose identity. School should make own choices.

I work in another MAT think trusts are good.

Good to be closer to Leamington Hastings.

If support for COVID can be offered, then in favour.

Academies are privatisation.

Limited accountability in a trust.

No option for a LA bail out if things went wrong.

There is a conflict of interests on the board.

The trust doesn't have a good record.

School shouldn't be allowed.

There should have been other academy options.

Not enough consultation.

The text above summarises all unique opinions raised in textual responses. Governors can view the complete list of responses in the embedded Excel spreadsheet in appendix 1.

Consultation 3: Should the faith criteria be removed from Dunchurch Boughton Junior School's admissions policy?

Staff

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	12	4	9	69
Percentage	13%	4%	10%	73%

Parents and the wider community

	Yes	No	Not sure/indifferent	Didn't respond
Number	52	63	33	658
Percentage	6.5%	7.8%	4.1%	81.8%

Views expressed as staff

Focus should be on DISN pupils getting places at DBJS.

School is faith and this change will undermine that.

Changing would be more inclusive.

Views expressed by parents or the wider community

Religion shouldn't be a factor in admissions.

We reluctantly attended church to help get a place, but we hadn't had to.

If the school is C of E, then faith criteria should form part of the admissions policy.

The admissions policy has caused many families worry and panic.

As few families use the criteria, it shouldn't be an issue keeping it.

Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"

Not a good time to make a change.

Current criteria are difficult for families who have limited understanding of English.

Faith criteria is something I look for in a school.

This consultation is linked to consultation 2.

The above summarises all unique opinions raised in textual responses. Governors can view the complete list of responses in the embedded Excel spreadsheet in appendix 1.

Other parties:

Governing board of Leamington Hastings: In favour

Coventry Diocese: In favour

Letter received from Coventry Diocese in appendix 2.

Appendix – Complete set of responses from staff and parents



Dunchurch
Consultations Combin

Tab 1 is for the staff survey, tab 2 is for parents and tab 3 is from a parent who asked for a letter to be shared with governors.