

Please tell us your name and address, postcode and e-mail address if you have one. We will not use your personal information for anything other than this consultation.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

e-mail

Please note: In order to ensure that this process is fully open and transparent, other people will be able to read all the responses to this consultation.

The **return address** for this form is EITHER:

The Chair of Governors, Brentwood Early Years Centre,
Brentwood Street, Wallasey, CH44 4BB,

OR

The Chair of Governors, Somerville Primary School, Northbrook
Road, Wallasey, CH44 9AR.

Both Governing bodies will read all the responses regardless of which school they are addressed to so there is no need to send your comments to both Governing bodies.

E-mail comments can be sent to either: schooloffice@brentwood-nursery.wirral.sch.uk OR
schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk

The **closing date** for comments is **11th November 2015**

Consultation By the Governing Bodies on forming a

HARD FEDERATION

Between

BRENTWOOD EARLY YEARS CENTRE

And

SOMERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

October – November 2015

Brentwood and Somerville Federation Consultation Feedback Form

Please let us know the main relationships you have with the school(s) by putting a tick in the appropriate box or boxes. You might be a parent and a member of staff, for example.

School	Parent	Member of staff	Governor	Other person
Brentwood				
Somerville				
Other (please say which one)				

Comments

Please use this space for your comments. You can write more on another sheet if you need to.

Consultation by the Governing Bodies on forming a Hard Federation between Brentwood Early Years Centre and Somerville Primary School

The Governing bodies of Brentwood Early Years Centre and Somerville Primary School propose to form a hard federation and are now undertaking public consultation. Under these proposals, a single governing body would be formed on 1st January 2016.

This document sets out the reasons why we have considered such a possibility and asks for your views. The Governors of each school will review the responses from parents, staff, the Local Authority, Unions, local residents and local schools. At that point the two governing bodies will decide whether to form a Federation, amend the proposal, or take no further action.

This consultation document is divided into a number of sections:

1. The Introduction, which explains more about the two schools, what a federation is and why we are proposing it
2. The Proposal
3. The Consultation – timeline and meeting dates
4. Some questions answered
5. Having your say – How to respond

1. Introduction

About the two schools

Brentwood Early Years Centre is a nursery school with part-time places for 80 boys and girls aged 3 to 4 years and 24 part-time places for boys and girls who are eligible for 2 year old funding.

55 part-time pupils on roll (27.5 full time equivalent). It is on Brentwood Street, in Wallasey.

Somerville Primary School is a mixed sex community primary school with places for 525 children aged 5 to 11. In May 2015 there were 478 pupils on roll. It is on Northbrook Road, in Wallasey.

What is a Federation?

A federation is formed when schools remain separate in law, but are managed together by a single Governing Body. They have separate budgets, have separate Ofsted Inspections and report their results separately.

The proposed model maintains Brentwood Early Years Centre and Somerville Primary School as separate schools. The management of the two schools would be brought together under the supervision of a single Governing body. The arrangement would build on the strengths of both schools without losing their individual identities.

Why are we considering this? What are the benefits?

The formation of a Federation will enable the two schools to work collaboratively, but at the same time the governors of both schools are determined to maintain for the future, a high standard of education in Wallasey.

The Governing bodies believe that sharing of good practice between teachers, with early years and primary working, training and developing together will lead to improved standards in both schools.

The Governing bodies view is that Federation will enable the two schools to make best use of their resources, thereby gaining economies and efficiencies of operation and further driving up educational standards.

5. Having your say – how to respond

The Governing bodies believe that Federation enables the two schools to share best practice, improve curriculum opportunities and share resources, which will have a positive impact in supporting learning to further raise achievement and standards. They would really like to hear your views.

What do you think? You can write on your own, or you can join together with other people to write a joint letter. Your comments can be sent by post, through the school, or by e-mail. If you find it helpful, you can complete and return the **feedback form** provided.

All written representations should be sent to **one** of the Governing bodies at the address below. Both Governing bodies will read all the responses regardless of which school they are addressed to so there is no need to send your comments to both Governing bodies.

Either

The Chair of Governors
Somerville Primary School
Northbrook Road
Wallasey
CH44 9AR schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk

Or

The Chair of Governors
Brentwood Early Years Centre
Brentwood Street
Wallasey
CH44 4BB
schooloffice@brentwood-nursery.wirral.sch.uk

Written representations on this proposal must be sent to one of the Governing bodies by:

Wednesday 11th November 2015

4. Some questions answered

Q. What will this mean for admission to school?

A. The admission arrangements for Brentwood Early Years Centre and Somerville Primary School will remain unchanged. Applications for the Foundation 1 class will be made to the Somerville Federation, whilst applications for Foundation 2 or older year groups will be made through the Local Authority, just as now.

There is no guarantee that children attending Brentwood Early Years Centre will be allocated a place at Somerville Primary School, just as now.

Q. What will this mean for classes?

A. The number of places at Brentwood and the admission number at Somerville, will not be changed. Class sizes will not go up as a result of the federation.

Q. How will staff be affected?

A. Existing staff will remain contracted to the school to which they were originally appointed prior to Federation, undertaking duties in that school. But one of the benefits of Federation is that it may sometimes be possible to deploy staff across both schools to support needs identified by the single Governing body. New staff appointed by the single Governing body after Federation could be appointed to work in one or both schools.

There are national standards for staff to pupil ratios for early years provision and staffing levels will almost certainly be the same as current levels.

Sharing best practice between staff at the two schools, alongside opportunities for training, will ensure high quality professional development to enhance learning opportunities and career development.

2. The Proposal

- a) The Governing bodies of Brentwood Early Years Centre and Somerville Primary School have resolved to consult on a hard federation under a single governing body. The Federation will be known as The Somerville Federation.
- b) Pupil admissions to Foundation 2 (Reception) will continue to be made through Wirral Council as the Admissions Authority. There is no change to this process.
Places in Foundation 1 (nursery) will be managed directly by the Somerville Federation.
- c) It is proposed that the federated governing body should consist of a maximum of **9 governors**.
- d) The proposed and current number of governors in each category is set out in the table below:

Type of Governor	Maximum number	Current number (Both Schools combined)
Parent	3	3 (+3 vacancies)
Staff including headteacher	2	3 (including both headteachers)
Local Authority	2	0 (+2 vacancies)
Community	2	3
Total	9	9 (+5 vacancies)

- e) On establishment of the federation, the existing staff of both schools will remain in post. The former headteachers of both schools have recently moved onto other placements. Mr Michael Forber has recently been appointed as headteacher for Somerville Primary School from 1st January 2016. Recruitment for a headteacher for Brentwood Early Years Centre is on hold and an Acting Headteacher has been put in place temporarily. The Governors will, over time, develop the staffing structure across both schools to ensure continuity and breadth of the curriculum and the most efficient and effective management support structure. Governors will aim to move to the new staffing structure in a flexible way. Economies of scale and best value will be considered for each post within the staffing structure at each stage or as an opportunity arises.
- f) The proposed federation date is: **1st January 2016.**
- g) Written representations on this proposal must be sent to one of the Governing bodies by:

Wednesday 11th November 2015

3. The Consultation – Timeline and meeting dates

Start of Consultation	Wednesday 30 th September 2015
Consultation meeting at Somerville Primary School school hall	4pm on 13 th October 2015
End of Consultation	Wednesday 11 th November 2015
Individual and Joint Governing body meetings to consider responses and vote on whether to proceed	December 2015
If the vote is to proceed, Federation commencement date	Friday 1 st January 2016

Parents, staff, governors and other interested persons who are unable to attend the consultation meeting and would like to speak to a school representative in person can make an appointment to speak to the headteacher of either school by calling:

Brentwood Early Years Centre: 0151 638 1567
Somerville Primary School: 0151 638 5074