



**PROPOSAL FOR THE FEDERATION BY THE GOVERNING
BOARDS OF ELM COURT SCHOOL AND THE LIVITY SCHOOL**

1st December 2021

Background

The Governing Boards of both The Elm Court School (“**Elm Court**”) and The Livity School (“**Livity**”) by majority agreed to propose a federation (“**Elm Court Livity Federation**”) between the two schools in order to capitalise on the educational, financial, and resource benefits that such an arrangement will bring. Evidence suggests that there will be many advantages to both schools via such an arrangement and, most importantly, for all the children who are educated at the two schools.

A federation is a governance structure which provides a firm but flexible basis for closer school to school partnership working. It enables schools to share resources, best practice, facilities and expertise. Schools in a federation retain separate identities, continue to receive full individual budgets and retain existing admission arrangements. They do, however, have a single governing board and can therefore make strategic and budgetary decisions in the interests of both schools, as well as target priority areas.

Primarily the proposed arrangement needs to be judged against the benefits for the pupils of Elm Court and Livity. Any change will be on the basis of enhanced educational benefits, particularly in relation to overall improvements in standards. Many of the advantages for children, attributed to schools within a federation are:

- a single vision and ethos
- greater consistency of teaching and learning for pupils
- greater continuity in terms of expectations, behaviour,
- partnerships with parents
- greater continuity of support for vulnerable groups of pupils.
- alignment of effective policies, processes and practices

We will ensure that the federated governing board will build on the existing strength of both schools. We believe that this arrangement will deliver to both schools:

- A broader and deeper curriculum
- Flexible leadership capacity
- Flexible staffing and specialism
- Improved Continued Professional Development for all staff
- Enhanced retention of staff
- Shared expertise at many levels
- Economies of scale
- Flexible budgeting

Proposal

Both governing boards have decided by majority to propose that the two schools join in a federation. This will mean that there will be one governing board made up of 16 governors as follows:

Category of Governor	# of Governors in each category
Parent Governor	2
Executive Head Teacher	1
Staff Governor	1
Co-Opt	12

NB The proposed composition reflects statutory requirements.

Staffing

There will be one group of staff, who are employed by the Local Authority and are contracted to work at an individual school, either Elm Court or Livity (unless agreed otherwise); who will be led by one single Executive Headteacher.

Budget

The amount of money available to the federation will be equal to the budget allocation to the separate schools.

Inspection

Ofsted recognises that schools are involved in different partnership arrangements. The scheduling of inspections may be adjusted to facilitate a co-ordinated inspection. However, Ofsted will consider the date of the previous inspection for each school in the federation, together with other local information, which may make it inappropriate for the federated schools to be inspected at the same time.

School status

The status of the federated schools will remain as maintained schools, with the London Borough of Lambeth as the admissions authority.

What happens next?

This proposal is being circulated to parents, carers, staff, London Borough of Lambeth and the Secretary of State for Education.

Governors' welcome representation on this proposal via:

An online form available [here](#)

OR

Email:

admin@elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk

admin@thelivity.lambeth.sch.uk

OR

By dropping written comments into the drop boxes available in both school Reception areas.

All comments must be received by 28th January 2022.

The governing boards of Elm Court and Livity will meet collectively to review all feedback and agree any amendments to the proposal. Each governing board will then separately give final agreement on the decision to federate. If finally agreed, it is proposed that the federation will take place on March 23rd, 2022.