



SETTLE (VC) CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & KIRKBY IN MALHAMDALE United VA PRIMARY SCHOOL



15th June 2018

Settle Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School/Kirkby-in-Malhamdale United Voluntary Aided Primary School Partnership Arrangement with shared headship from September 2018

Dear Parent/ Guardian

We are delighted to announce that Settle VC Church of England Primary School and Kirkby-in-Malhamdale VA Primary School will begin closer partnership working, including having a shared headship arrangement from September 2018. From this date, the Executive Headteacher of both schools will be Mr Richard Wright, who has served as the Headteacher of Settle CE Primary School for the last 14 years and prior to this was the Headteacher of Kirkby in Malhamdale Primary School for 3 years.

The governing boards believe that a *Shared Headship* and closer working partnership arrangement will benefit both schools offering the potential to enhance school practice, enrich both schools in terms of staffing and organisation and bring financial savings by exploring economies of scale.

The partnership is approved and supported by North Yorkshire County Council, as well as the Diocesan Board of Education who believe that shared working will enhance:

- (a) The distinctive character of the schools, and
- (b) The quality of educational provision for pupils

There are a number of strategic benefits to the arrangement which we believe will benefit the children:

- As Executive Headteacher Mr. Wright will be able to focus more on key strategic leadership responsibilities across both schools and there will be more flexibility to be explored over time, for staff deployment, recruitment and training.
- The two schools will complement each other in terms of developing teaching, learning and the wider curriculum (including shared working and shared projects as well as the use of two venues for community and educational purposes). Further collaboration on joint curriculum based projects means greater educational opportunities for both schools, which in turn means activities and provision possibilities being created that would not otherwise be possible if the school continued to work separately.
- The schools will each appoint Base Leaders from their current Senior Leadership Groups to manage the running of the school in the absence of the Executive Headteacher, Mr Wright when he is not on site at either school. The arrangements also provide opportunities to develop other important leadership roles such as special needs, standards and assessment in both schools.
- The financial cost of the Executive Headteacher will be shared between the two schools, which will ease school budgets and allow more financial scope for the development of provision in both schools. Working in a formal collaboration will offer potential economies of scale when purchasing and ordering resources / buying in coaching or specialist subject expertise/ going on residential trips/undertaking joint bids for school grants etc.
- We need to emphasise that neither school will be losing out by having a shared headteacher but rather the collaboration will provide the Executive Headteacher with the opportunity to focus on the

key aspects of the role that relates to raising standards and enhancing school provision in both schools through greater opportunities for distributed leadership.

- Most importantly, there will be two strong communities merging together to champion both schools and not just one.

What happens next?

- The Executive Headteacher will liaise with staff and governors to organise staffing and develop a school improvement plan that will clearly enhance the educational provision and standards of both schools.
- The development of practice in both schools will be closely monitored through a Joint Strategic Development Committee of governors from both schools to ensure the smooth transition toward closer partnership working and to make sure that both schools are benefiting and parents are kept informed.
- A timeline will be established for longer term working and to consider the possibility of formal Federation as decided by the schools' joint strategy group.
- Schools will resume in September and by and large there will be little visible change to parents. The Executive Headteacher will still be accessible to parents while classes and activities will run similar to how they have been running this year in both schools. However in time, the benefits of working in close partnership will begin to emerge with increased teaching and learning as well as provision opportunities for both schools.

We are very excited about shared headship and close partnership working between both schools and believe that faced with the current budgetary demands put upon rural schools and the increased accountability of Ofsted this is the best strategic way to move forward. We are as ever very mindful of the views of our parents and local community partners and welcome your feedback so that we can take it into account when moving forward from September (please find a Feedback form attached which may be returned to the school office by **Friday 22nd June 2018** marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors in a sealed envelope which is attached). We will also host a Parent 'Drop in' Day on **Tuesday 26th June 2018** at Settle Primary School (3.30-4.30pm) and on **Thursday 28th June** at Kirkby in Malhamdale Primary (3.30-4.30pm) whereby parents can meet with governors and the Executive Headteacher, Mr Wright, to discuss the proposal and try to answer any further questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Gillian Gape

Chair of Governors - Settle CE Primary School



Andrew Booth

Chair of Governors - Kirkby in Malhamdale Primary School

PARENT FEEDBACK FORM

**Settle VC Church of England Primary School/Kirkby-in-Malhamdale United VA
Primary School Partnership Arrangement with shared headship from
September 2018**

Parent's Name.....

(Child's name.....

Class.....)

<p>Please state any views (<i>positive comments as well as any concerns</i>) that you might have relating to the proposed school partnership and Shared Headship arrangement.</p>	
<p>Please note any questions or details that you need further clarifying (we will then put together a question and answer document for parents and/or feedback to parents in a future letter).</p>	

Thank you for your feedback- please complete and return to the school office in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors by Friday 22nd June 2018