

St Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School



Dene Road • Ashted • SURREY • KT21 1EA

14 October 2024

Dear Parents, Staff, and Members of the St Giles' School Community

Following our previous announcement regarding the strategic direction for St Giles' Infant School, we are writing to share an exciting development.

You will already know we recently appointed Mrs Mercy Atkins as our new Executive Headteacher. She brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success in leading in infant and primary education. Following her appointment, and after in-depth discussions with the Governing Body, we have decided to shift our strategic direction from academisation to joining a federation. It is a subtle change but this decision comes after careful consideration of the unique opportunities a federation presents for St Giles' and the education of your children - our *raison d'être*.

Why a Federation?

While we initially explored academisation as a strategic option, a federation offers several compelling advantages for St Giles':

- **Shared Expertise and Resources:** A federation allows for closer collaboration between schools we choose, enabling us to share best practices, resources, and expertise that best fit our vision and values. This includes curriculum development, professional development for staff, and even potential economies of scale in areas like procurement. This can translate into valuable financial stability and potentially more resources for our school.
- **Enhanced Leadership Support:** Mrs Atkins' existing leadership role at both schools ensures strong, consistent leadership across a federation. This can be particularly valuable for a smaller school like ours, allowing us to strengthen strategic development, curriculum planning, and staff training.
- **Preserving Our Identity:** Unlike academisation, a federation allows St Giles' to retain its unique identity, ethos, and admissions policy. The school will remain a voluntary aided, maintained school within the local authority framework.

What This Means for You:

We understand that any change can raise questions. We want to assure you that St Giles' will remain a nurturing and stimulating environment. Our core values, dedicated staff, and close-knit community will not change.

What Happens Next?

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout this process. Over the coming weeks, a working party from the Governing Body will be holding a series of meetings to discuss the proposed federation in more detail. We will also be providing further information through our school website and newsletters.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to us with any questions. We will hold a more formal consultation as part of a well-rehearsed government federation process. We are confident that a federation with Riverview is the best path forward for ensuring the continued success of St Giles' Infant School.

Daniel Beck

Vice Chair of Governors
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'Loving God Loving Our Neighbour'

