



Information for prospective staff

May 2022

*"In a creative, caring environment, we all support and **challenge** each other to develop confidence and independence. By exploring different choices, we are inspired to **discover** and **succeed** in lifelong learning."*

The Exe Valley Federation was formed in 2012 from a collaboration of 3 schools: Cheriton Fitzpaine School, Thorverton C of E School and Newton St Cyres School. In September 2017, Brampford Speke C of E School joined the Federation. In September 2018, the federation entered into a Management Partnership with Silverton C of E school. This arrangement enabled the schools to work together and share best practice in a structured way. The governors of both organisations agreed unanimously that Silverton should join the federation as a full member on the 1st September 2019. In October 2020, the federation began a collaborative partnership with Sandford School, which is similar in ethos and character to the other federation schools. The consultation process for re-federating to include Sandford School was completed on 17th December 2020 and the federation expanded to 6 schools from February 2021. This takes the number of children on roll to 580, and means that we employ 123 staff altogether.

Each school upholds its distinct ethos and traditions and staff and governors work closely together to support the children in the Federation. It is a hard federation with a single governing body responsible for running the six schools. Governors are linked to each school for at least a year and focus on getting to know that school, the children and staff during that time. Each of the schools has a Head of School who is responsible for teaching and learning and the everyday running of the school and is a member of the Leadership Team, along with the Executive Headteacher. The Executive Headteacher has been in post since January 2016 and has specific responsibility for leading the strategic development of the federation.

The six federation schools are located in a ten-mile triangle between the towns of Crediton and Tiverton and are approximately 9 miles from Exeter. All the schools are intrinsic parts of their village communities and generally serve their local population. The majority of children transfer to Queen Elizabeth's Community College in Crediton or Clyst Vale Community College at the end of Year 6.

All of the schools were judged 'good' by Ofsted at their last inspection and have continued to improve since then. Silverton was judged to require improvement in 2017 and has improved significantly since then, supported by the federation and was judged to be 'good' in November 2019. We commission a Federation Review every year with an independent educational adviser, who reported this year that, "Leaders and governors have created a culture across the federation that enables pupils and staff to excel. Visits to schools show that relationships between staff and pupils are exemplary" and "Leaders have instilled a strong sense of purpose and collaboration across the federation. The report also identified areas for development that will form the focus of our school improvement planning for the next 12 months. A summary of the 2021/22 Federation Development Plan may be found on the website.

The Federation takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and all staff work hard to ensure that children are kept safe at school and beyond. There is a good understanding of the principles of safeguarding amongst staff and guidance on 'what to do if you are worried about a child' is on display in all the schools. Heads of School have received appropriate training on safeguarding and this is kept up to date, as has the Executive Head who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The administration of the six schools is led by the Federation Business Manager, Heidi Last. She is supported by Admin Assistants who work in the school offices and have some additional federation responsibilities such as HR, finance and residential visits. The team meets together regularly and communicate with each other frequently for

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Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton EX17 4AN T: 01363 866456 cheritonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Newton St Cyres Primary School Station Road, Newton St Cyres, Devon EX5 5DL T: 01392 851267 newtonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Sandford School, Sandford, Crediton, Devon EX17 4NE T: 01363 772256 sandfordadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Silverton C of E Primary School Coach Lane, Silverton, Devon EX5 4JY T: 01392 860677 silvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Thorverton C of E Primary School School Lane, Thorverton, Devon EX5 5NR T: 01392 860374 thorvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr J Jolliffe B.Sc MA

advice and support. All staff are welcome to attend Staff Development Days and work with colleagues on a range of different aspects of school improvement. External speakers are regularly invited to lead professional development days, which is one of the benefits of being part of a federation.

Children in all the schools are well-behaved and conduct themselves well throughout the day, including at lunchtimes. Low level disruption is rare and rapidly addressed and parents are involved early to support improved behaviour. Children are keen to come to school and attendance and punctuality are good and where there are dips in attendance, these are followed up by Heads of School to secure improvement. Children are polite and well-mannered and have a positive relationship with adults in school. The principles of Growth Mindset were introduced to the schools in September 2016 to raise expectations and promote higher achievement and encourage children to take greater responsibility for their own learning.

Personal development is good across the schools and children are given opportunities to learn and reflect upon their social, health and spiritual development. Sport is actively encouraged through weekly usage of a local leisure centre as well as other opportunities for walking such as the Exmoor Challenge. As the majority of children are from a white British background, deepening understanding of other cultures, the importance of British values and an awareness of radicalisation is an emerging priority for the revised curriculum plan, which was introduced in September 2016. Teachers and other adults are quick to tackle the rare use of derogatory or aggressive language and challenge stereotyping appropriately. In the summer, all children in Keystage 2 can go on a residential visit, ranging from one night away at Plymouth Aquarium for Year 3, to going to France for 5 days in Year 6. This year, we are running more local, 'Residential visits at home' as children get used to being away from home after lockdown.

Five out of the six schools have pre-school provision on-site but organised in different ways. There are Foundation Stage Units at Cheriton Fitzpaine, Brampford Speke, Newton St Cyres and Silverton; there is an independent pre-school at Thorverton and a new FSU at Sandford from September 2021. The schools with FSUs are registered to take children from 2 to 11 years old and are increasing numerically as the federation gains a positive reputation for pre-school provision. There is full wrap around care at Sandford, Silverton and Newton St Cyres, Breakfast Club at Brampford Speke and partial provision at Cheriton Fitzpaine and Thorverton, based on the needs of school families.

The leadership team and governors have been actively considering the future development of the EVF and firmly believe that the federation provides a robust and strategic framework for collaboration and school to school development work. By creating a secure structure for the future, we believe that our vision and aims for raising expectations and improving outcomes for all children can be met in a positive and dynamic way with a clear commitment to excellence in every member school.

Thank you for taking time to find out about the Exe Valley Federation and what we can offer colleagues who are keen to work alongside teaching staff who are keen to develop their expertise and passion for teaching in a safe and secure environment. We look forward to hearing from you.

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