



Consultation by the Governing Bodies
on forming a Hard Federation between
**Pensby High School for Girls and
Pensby High School for Boys**

February - March 2010

The Governing bodies of Pensby High School for Girls and Pensby High School for Boys propose to form a hard Federation and are now undertaking public consultation. Under these proposals, a single governing body would be formed on 4th May 2010.

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

INTRODUCTION

About the two schools

Pensby High School for Girls is a single sex, non-selective community secondary school with places for 883 girls aged 11 to 18. In Autumn 2009 there were 785 pupils on roll. The school is a Specialist Business and Enterprise and Science College.

Pensby High School for Boys is a single sex, non-selective community secondary school with places for 867 boys aged 11 to 18. In Autumn 2009 there were 601 pupils on roll. The school is a Specialist Sports College.

The 16 to 18 Sixth Form provision has been provided jointly by the two schools for over 20 years.

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 Pensby High School for Girls and Pensby High School for Boys 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 single sex education in West Wirral.

All lessons at Key Stage 3, and the majority of lessons at Key Stage 4 will be delivered separately. Key Stage 4 courses that would not be viable in one school alone could be run for students in both schools, thus providing greater choice and improving curriculum opportunities. This happens already at sixth form level.

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

The number of pupils in Wirral secondary schools is falling and will continue to do so for a number of years. Not all areas of Wirral are being affected in the same way, but there are significantly fewer children in the Pensby school community. Both schools are already experiencing falling rolls and with this, decreasing budgets. If this is left unresolved it will result in a narrowing curriculum entitlement and reduced opportunities for pupils.

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.

THE PROPOSAL

- a) The Governing bodies of Pensby High School for Girls and Pensby High School for Boys have resolved to consult on a hard Federation under a single governing body. The Federation will be known as The Pensby High Schools Federation.
- b) It is proposed that the federated governing body should consist of 29 governors. This is the maximum allowed by law.
- c) The proposed and current number of governors in each category is set out in the table below.

Type of Governor	Proposed number
Parent	10
Staff including headteacher	6
Local Authority	6
Community	7
Total	29



- d) On establishment of the Federation, the existing staff of both schools, including the Headteachers, will remain in post. Over the course of two academic years, as opportunity arises, the Governors will 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.
- e) The proposed Federation date is: 4th May 2010.
- f) Pupil admissions will continue to be made to individual schools, determined by Wirral Council as the Admissions Authority. There is no change to this process.
- g) Written representations on this proposal must be sent to one of the Governing bodies by:
FRIDAY 19th MARCH 2010

THE CONSULTATION - TIMELINE AND MEETING DATES

Start of Consultation	Wednesday, 3rd February 2010
Consultation meetings	
Pensby High School for Boys	Wednesday, 24th February 2010
Pensby High School for Girls	Thursday, 25th February 2010
End of Consultation	Friday, 19th March 2010
Individual and Joint Governing body meetings to consider responses and vote on whether to proceed	Tuesday, 20th April 2010
If the vote is to proceed, Federation commencement date	Tuesday, 4th May 2010

Consultation meetings begin at 7pm, and are expected to last approximately two hours.

A drop-in session has also been organised for parents, staff, governors and other interested persons who are unable to attend the consultation meeting(s), or who would like to speak to a school representative in person.

The date of the drop-in session is Tuesday, 2nd March 2010 at Pensby High School for Boys and Thursday, 4th March 2010 at Pensby High School for Girls. Both sessions will be from 4-7pm.

Individuals or small groups can make an appointment to attend one of the drop-in sessions by contacting the school directly.

**Pensby High School for Boys:
0151 648 2111**

**Pensby High School for Girls:
0151 648 1941**



SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. What will this mean for admissions?

A. The admission arrangements for Pensby High School for Girls and Pensby High School for Boys will remain unchanged. This means that pupils will be admitted to a single sex school, just as now.



Q. What will this mean for lessons and classes?

A. For most pupils in most subjects, there will be little change to class arrangements.

At Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9
Pupils at Pensby High School for Girls will be taught in separate classes to pupils of Pensby High School for Boys.

At Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11
The majority of the curriculum will be delivered in single sex classes. The Governing body will consider mixed classes to ensure maximum curriculum opportunities in some Option subjects.

At Key Stage 5 - Years 12 and 13
The Joint Sixth Form provision and existing collaboration between the Pensby Sixth Form and other local schools and colleges will continue.



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.

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.



HAVING YOUR SAY - HOW TO RESPOND

We aspire to be World Class schools providing World Class learning opportunities for every young person.

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.

Key Features

- Enhanced opportunities
- Flexible curriculum choices
- Professional development opportunities
- Collaboration and partnership
- High quality learning
- World Class education

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
Pensby High School for Girls
Irby Road
Heswall, CH61 6XN
schooloffice@pensbyhigh.wirral.sch.uk

Or

The Chair of Governors
Pensby High School for Boys
Irby Road
Heswall, CH61 6XN
schooloffice@pensbysportscollege.wirral.sch.uk

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

FRIDAY 19th MARCH 2010

The Governing bodies of Pensby High School for Girls and Pensby High School for Boys would really like to hear your views. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and reading your responses.



