

17 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Consultation on the Future of The Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools and Park Community School**

We are writing to inform you about a significant proposal regarding the future of our school community.

On Tuesday 17 June, a report will be presented to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at Hampshire County Council. The report will recommend launching a non-statutory public consultation on the future of The Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools.

The Governing Bodies of The Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools and Park Community School have asked the County Council to consider merging the schools. This would involve formally closing the Riders schools and expanding Park Community School to include younger pupils, creating an all-through school for children aged 4 to 16.

If the proposal is approved, the newly expanded Park Community School would operate across both Riders and Park Community sites.

#### **Why is this being proposed?**

- The number of pupils at Riders Infant and Junior Schools is falling, which will create financial difficulties.
- In recent inspections Ofsted has rated both schools as 'Requires Improvement'.
- The Federation has not been successful in recruiting a permanent Executive Headteacher.
- Since September 2024, Park Community School has been supporting the leadership of the Riders schools.

#### **What are the potential benefits?**

- It would maintain a primary education presence in the local area.
- Pupils would benefit from a continuous education journey from Reception through to GCSEs.
- Leadership and teaching would be strengthened, with access to a wider range of resources.
- Strong relationships with families could continue to be built from an early stage and maintained with consistency, supporting better attendance and engagement across all age groups.
- Resources could be used more efficiently, offering better value for money.
- A wider range of resources would be available for Riders children.





### **What happens next?**

The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services will consider the proposal on 25 June. If approved, the public consultation will run from 27 June to 28 July 2025. During this time, there will be public drop-in sessions where you can speak with County Council officers and share your views.

The results of the consultation will be reviewed in October 2025. If the proposal moves forward, a formal statutory consultation will follow. If the final decision is to proceed, the new all-through school would open in September 2026.

We understand that this proposal may raise questions or concerns. We are committed to keeping you informed and involved throughout the process. More details about how to take part in the consultation will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Anders  
Headteacher

Ella Capaldi  
Head Of School

Barry Harwood  
Governor

Adrian Rowsell  
Governor