

Collaboration Agreement Between

Thames View Infant School and Thames View Junior School

For the purposes of this agreement, the term collaboration refers to the collaboration between the above named schools under the terms and conditions laid down below.

1. Vision and Aims

1.1 Our joint aims and aspirations:

- Our partnership brings clear benefits for the children of both schools;
- Shares and develops staff expertise across both schools;
- To try out different and innovative ways of working;
- To raise the aspirations of children, staff, parents and governors;
- To secure strong strategic leadership;
- Maintain and develop individual characters, ethos and distinctiveness of each school but also to use differences to enhance the experience of the children from both schools.

1.2 Guiding Principles:

In both schools

- The quality of teaching is not compromised;
- The quality of education and curriculum provision is not adversely affected;
- The high standards of pupil behaviour are maintained;
- The confidence of parents is retained and secured for the partnership.
- Each school retains its own identity and character;
- Use of the buildings and site to be made a strength of the collaboration;
- Trust and good relationships are not compromised;
- That raising achievements and developing high quality teaching and learning remain a key priority.

1.1 A collaborative partnership will be established between November 11th 2011 and August 31st 2013, whilst both schools continue to be managed by their own substantive Headteachers.

1.2 Both schools will maintain separate governing bodies but will also set up a Joint Committee, with clear terms of reference, to oversee the collaborative partnership. The Joint Committee will meet on a termly basis to monitor the extent to which the aims, aspirations and guiding principles of the arrangement are being met;

1.3 The Joint Committee will be established, comprising of the Headteachers of both Schools, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of both Governing Bodies (or an appropriate substitute). A representative of the LA school improvement team and/or an external consultant will endeavour to attend the meeting if requested by the Joint Committee. An external consultant will be appointed by the Joint Committee to act as chair. See Terms of Reference;

1.4 Governor representatives on the Joint Committee will be nominated from the Governing Bodies of each school. Governors have agreed some flexibility of membership to ensure good communication and participation of members.

2. Implementation of Collaborative Partnership

2.1 Both schools will pay due attention to the contractual rights of all affected employees and will seek professional advice in regards to these matters from the Local Authority Personnel Department;

3. Monitoring and Review of the Collaborative Partnership

- 3.1 The Joint Committee will conduct a formal review of the partnership prior to the scheduled end date of the arrangement in the Summer Term 2013.
- 3.2 The aims, aspirations and guiding principles will be reviewed by the Joint Committee who will consider the needs and effectiveness of the partnership against specific success criteria agreed by the Committee with the support of a representative of the LA school improvement team and/or external consultant
- 3.3 Following the formal review, the Joint Committee will make a recommendation to each Governing Body to:
 - a) Maintain the partnership
 - b) Move towards a federation
 - c) Dissolve the partnership
- 3.4 Where it has been agreed initially to work in partnership for a period exceeding a year, the Joint Committee may also make a recommendation as outlined above to extend the partnership or move towards a federation prior to the scheduled end date of the arrangement.
- 3.5 The outcomes of any external/internal reviews (parents, staff, Link Adviser etc) will be reported to the Joint Committee who will then report back to both Governing Bodies individually.

4. Financial Operation

- 4.1 Each school will make arrangements in conjunction with their School Finance Officer for the calculation and transfer of any of the proportionate employment costs of the collaborative partnership

5. Dissolution of Partnership

- 5.1 The Joint Committee will conduct a formal review of the partnership prior to the scheduled end date of the arrangement in the Spring Term 2013 and make a recommendation on the future of the partnership.
- 5.2 The partnership will be deemed to be dissolved if, upon the recommendation of the Joint Committee following either a termly or formal review, the aims and purpose of the collaborative partnership are not being met and in the view of the committee will not be met under the current leadership arrangement. A minimum of one term’s notice will be given.

6. Alterations to this Agreement

- 6.1 Any alterations to this agreement, inclusions, deletions or additions must first be agreed by the Joint Committee and then by both Governing Bodies.
- 6.2 We hereby agree to the above contract for collaborative partnership between Thames View Infant School and Thames View Junior School as outlined above.

..... Signed by Chair of Governors of Thames View Infant School, on Date:

..... Signed by Chair of Governors of Thames View Junior School, on Date: