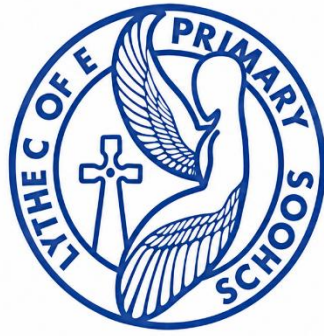




## Formal Proposal for The Moors and Coast Federation

### Schools:

Lythe CEVC Primary School

Goathland Primary School

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

# **Formal Proposal of the Governing Bodies of Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Goathland Primary School (together “the Schools”)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This proposal has been drafted after 6 weeks [a period of informal stakeholder consultation,] individual Governing Body discussion and consideration by a joint working party comprising governors from each of the Governing Bodies.

At each of the separate full Governing Body meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (Goathland) and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (Lythe), each of the Governing Bodies supported the proposal to enter formal consultation around the potential for the Schools to become a federation to be known as Moors and Coast Federation.

## **Context of schools**

### **(a) Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Lythe CE (VC) Primary School is a rural Church of England primary school in the Diocese of York serving the village of Lythe and the surrounding area. It caters for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. The school currently has 83 children from nursery through to Year 6.

At the last OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) inspection in January 2025, the school was judged to have been Good in all areas. At the last SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in June 2025, the school was judged to have been Good.

The school currently works in close collaboration with Goathland Primary School and share the same Headteacher. There has been an SLA in place between the two schools for a number of years, which has allowed collaboration between schools already. The current head has been in post since April 2025 and has strengthen links between the schools.

### **(b) Goathland Primary School**

Goathland Primary School is a rural primary school in the heart of the North York Moors, serving the village of Goathland and the surrounding area. It caters for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. The school currently has 19 children on role.

At the last OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) inspection in July 2024, the school was judged to have been Good.

The school currently works in close collaboration with Lythe Primary School and share the same Headteacher. There has been an SLA in place between the two schools for a number of years, which has allowed collaboration between schools already. The current head has been in post since April 2025 and has strengthen links between the schools.

## Context to the federation proposal

The opportunity to consider the option of federation has resulted from the successful and mutually beneficial collaboration - facilitated through shared Headteacher arrangements between the Schools for a number of years, but particularly since April 2025. The Governing Bodies of the Schools have been looking at ways of working more closely together to maximize the impact of the collaboration on educational provision for children in each of the Schools. The Governing Bodies of the Schools believe that building upon this existing close working will ensure continuity and stability, providing the best education for our children whilst maintaining each School's distinctive culture and ethos.

Federation allows partner schools to work together and combine the strengths of schools through sharing a Governing Body, Headteacher and other resources. This would give more opportunities to children in terms of the breadth of what is taught, having access to well-qualified specialist teachers and social opportunities open to them.

The detailed proposal is set out below.

### What is Federation?

When two or more schools work together under a single Governing Body, this is called a federation. A federation is a formal arrangement, governed by regulations, between two or more local authority maintained schools which enables them to work in partnership with a view to raising standards, finding new ways of improving teaching and learning, and building on the strengths of each school.

The existing Governing Bodies are dissolved and a new Governing Body comes into being for the federation.

A federation can make it easier to attract and retain governors by offering opportunities to contribute across more than one school.

We anticipate that substantial savings and efficiency gains could be achieved through shared governance arrangements, coordinated policies, and joint purchasing.

Federation is not an amalgamation of schools and **does not involve the closure of any school**. In the proposed federation, the schools would remain separate schools each retaining their own budget and buildings and celebrating their own uniqueness.

## PROPOSAL

The individual governing bodies have considered each School's strengths and weaknesses. They have had on-going discussions as part of the earlier steps of the process and are confident that the vision of a partnership of each of the Schools within a Federation will be successful.

### **This proposal covers the following key areas:**

1. The names of all the governing bodies wishing to federate together and proposed federation date
2. The proposed name of the new federation
3. Details of the proposed size of the federation's governing body
4. The identity of the admissions authority for the schools within the proposed federation
5. The date, not less than six weeks after the publication of the consultation proposal, by which written representations must be returned to the governing body and the address to which they should be sent
6. The nature and scope of the formal consultation process
7. A draft Instrument of Government for a Federated Governing Body
8. The proposed governance structure for the federation
9. The proposed leadership structure for the federation and its impact on the schools (including key Human Resources issues arising from this)
10. The nature of the engagement with the local authority
11. The financial implications of federating.

## 1. Governing bodies wishing to federate:

The governing bodies of Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Goathland Primary School are proposing to form a federation following a period of formal consultation as outlined in the sections that follow, to take effect from 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2027.

## 2. Name of the proposed federation

The proposed name of the new federation is The Moors and Coast Primary Federation.

## 3. The size of the proposed federation's governing body

The proposed federation governing body consists of 11 governors as follows:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Total     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Headteacher of the Federation                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1         |
| Parent governors elected from across the federation                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2         |
| Local Authority Governor                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1         |
| Foundation Governors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2         |
| Staff Governor from across the federation                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2         |
| Co-opted governors from across the federation<br>( <i>co-opted governors can include parents of pupils at the schools, staff at the schools and other members of the community and are appointed on the skills required by the governing body</i> ) | 3         |
| <b>Total:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>11</b> |

\*The number of Parent Governors is fixed at 2 by regulation.

It is likely that existing governors from the Schools would express an interest in transferring to the federated Governing Body. A skills audit will be used to identify those who have the most relevant skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the federation to make the strongest possible Governing Body to oversee the Schools.

The Governing Body also has the ability to appoint associate members who may serve on committees and attend governing body meetings as required. Associate members are not governors and therefore do not have a vote in Governing Body decisions, but may be given a vote on decisions made by committees to which they are appointed. The federated Governing Body may seek to retain additional skills from current Governors through the use of associate members.

## 4. The admissions authority

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) will remain the admissions authority for Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Goathland Primary School.

Admissions to each School would continue to be made separately in accordance with the published admissions arrangements for the relevant School and the local authority's coordinated admissions arrangements.

## 5. The dates for formal consultation and how you can provide feedback

This consultation will remain open for at least 6 weeks, to enable written representations to be made to the respective governing bodies.

Governing body meetings at which these proposals were approved took place on 7<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

| Date(s)                                                                   | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prior to 14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026                                 | Obtain relevant LA, Diocesan and site trustee consents                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026                                           | Letter to stakeholders regarding 'The Schools' intent to federate                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 – 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2026           | Public consultation on proposals to become a federation (minimum 6 weeks)                                                                                                                                                  |
| W/C 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2026                                         | Separate Governing Body meetings to consider consultation responses and make a formal individual decision whether to enter federation                                                                                      |
| November 2026<br><i>(Special joint meeting of both Governing boards).</i> | Governing Body proceed to implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up and obtain approvals for federation Instrument of Government</li> <li>• Form new federated Governing Body</li> </ul> |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                              | Federation commences                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

We have provided a form as part of this pack as a way of gathering feedback. Please fill out the form and return to the relevant School. This can be returned by:

- (a) Handing the form into the relevant School; Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and Goathland Community Primary School
- (b) Sending a hard copy to: Lythe Church of England Primary School, High Street, Lythe, North Yorkshire, YO21 3RT, or Goathland Primary School, Beck Hole Road, Goathland, North Yorkshire, YO22 5ND.
- (c) Emailing: [admin@lythe.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lythe.n-yorks.sch.uk) or [admin@goathland.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@goathland.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Alternatively, if you want to provide additional substantive feedback, the email or postal addresses above can be used.

The local authority and Diocese can also provide further information. Please contact:

- (a) John Lee, Strategic Planning Officer - [John.s.lee@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:John.s.lee@northyorks.gov.uk)
- (b) George Edmond, Assistant Director of Education - [George.edmond@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:George.edmond@yorkdiocese.org)

## 6. Nature and scope of formal consultation

- 6.1. Each Governing Body is committed to meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout their respective consultation periods. The consultation process is supported by the York Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority.
- 6.2. Although the timing of the formal consultation is synchronised between the schools, each consultation is discrete to each School. As such, any written representations should be made to the relevant Governing Body and will be considered at this local level in order to maintain impartiality and reach a decision that is right for each School community.
- 6.3. In each School, the formal consultation will consist of:
  - Publication of this proposal on the website of each School.

- Hard copy letters to all parents outlining the consultation and signposting to the full proposal online (including advice on how to obtain a hard copy by request and advice on how to make written representations).
- Hard copies of this proposal document and covering letter sent to all staff employed to work at the Schools.
- A scheduled parents' consultation evening in each School (as tabled below). Parents of each School will be welcome at any parents' consultation evening but we will need to ensure it is clear whether any questions are addressing a particular School. The parents' consultation evenings are also open to members of the community, who would be informed via our website and social media channels.
- A scheduled staff consultation meeting (as tabled below). Additional detail surrounding this will be provided separately.

| School                                                        | Date                             | Audience | Time   | Venue                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School | 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2026 | Staff    | 3.30pm | Lythe CE (VC) Primary School |
| Lythe Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School | 28 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026 | Families | 4.00pm | Lythe CE (VC) Primary School |
| Goathland Primary School                                      | 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026 | Staff    | 3.30pm | Goathland Primary School     |
| Goathland Primary School                                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2026    | Families | 4.00pm | Goathland Primary School     |

*If possible please ensure any questions for the meetings have been sent in one week before each meeting, to ensure that the meeting is as productive as possible.*

- Copy of this proposal document and covering letter forwarded to all main teaching and support staff trade unions and trade union representatives invited to staff meetings.
- Copy of this proposal document and covering letter sent to the Secretary of State, the Local Authority, the Diocesan Authority, the Parochial Church Councils and local Parish Councils at the start of the consultation period (7<sup>th</sup> September 2026).
- Carefully planned child involvement to involve children in the rationale and impact on them.

## 7. Draft instrument of Government

A draft of the Instrument of Government for the new Federation Governing Body can be found at Appendix 1 of this proposal.

## 8. Proposed governance structure

The federation shall have one overarching Governing Body with governance responsibility and accountability across the Schools.

The Governing Body is expected to have at least two sub-committees, each of which shall have delegated responsibility and accountability across the Schools, as follows:

- Teaching & Learning
- Finance, Staffing & Resources

The Church of England schools will maintain their existing school status and their Church of England designated school status.

Each School will continue to be inspected by OFSTED on an individual basis and each Church school would continue to have their own SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

## **9. Proposed leadership structure**

The federation shall have one Headteacher who works across all schools. The Headteacher will be employed by the local authority. The Headteacher would have full time responsibility for each of the Schools working part of each week at each site to oversee the day-to-day running. This will be flexible in terms of structure, but will largely consist of 3 days at Lythe and 2 days at Goathland.

On federation, staff will continue to be employed by North Yorkshire Council under the direction of the federated Governing Body and the Headteacher. There will be no change to employment conditions of service for staff at any School without the normal consultation process.

Current staff will continue to work at their present site, though they will, on occasion, have the opportunity to work across the Schools for their own development or to share expertise. However, future appointments may be contracted to allow some element of employees taking on roles across the Schools. It is the vision of each Governing Body to create 'shared' posts across the Federation in the future where it provides opportunity for improved outcomes for pupils or improved efficiency.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, would benefit from shared training opportunities and open, professional dialogue in sharing best practice.

## **10. Engagement with the local authority and diocese**

The Schools have worked closely with appropriate representatives from North Yorkshire Council ("the LA") and the York Diocesan Board of Education ("the YDBE") throughout the informal consultation process.

The LA and the YDBE have provided advice and guidance on the federation process itself as well as contributing to the discussions around the potential school improvement benefits that such federation could bring. The YDBE must approve any plans for a Church of England school to join a federation and will do so only where the necessary protections for the school's foundation are protected.

The LA has agreed to support the appointment of an LA governor to the federated Governing Body. The YDBE will also work with the Church of England schools to identify which foundation governors will transfer across to the federated Governing Body.

The Governing Bodies have brokered specialist HR and pay advice and will continue to do so if the proposal progresses towards implementation following consultation.

## **11. The financial implications of federating**

Although federation will mean a single governance structure across the Schools, each School will remain separate in terms of funding allocation from the LA. Budgeting, reporting and monitoring of expenditure will still be managed for each School as separate entities.

It is anticipated that there will be some potential cost savings achieved through joint procurement of services, goods and training. In this case, savings made will be reinvested in the Schools.

As maintained schools, the LA retains overall responsibility for the financial viability of each School. In year and carry forward deficits or surplus remain with the individual Schools.

The Federation Governing Body would be responsible for ensuring that the budget for each School would balance and would not use the budget of one School to disadvantage the other. It may decide to 'pool' a small proportion of each School's individual budgets if it meant that all Schools would get better value for money.

**Thank you for your support in considering this important decision for our schools.**

**Draft Instrument of Government**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL**

The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended by The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016)

**INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

1. The name of the federation is The Moors and Coast Primary Federation.
2. The names and categories of the schools in the federation are:

| <b>Name</b>                                                 | <b>Category</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School | Voluntary Controlled |
| Goathland Community Primary School                          | Community            |

3. The name of the governing body is: The Moors and Coast Primary Federation Governing Body
4. The governing body shall consist of the following:

| <b>Category of Governor</b> | <b>No of Governors in each category</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Headteacher                 | 1                                       |
| Parent governors            | 2                                       |
| Local Authority Governor    | 1                                       |
| Foundation Governors        | 2                                       |
| Staff Governor              | 2                                       |
| Co-opted governors          | 3                                       |

5. Total number of governors is 11.
6. Foundation governors are appointed by the York Diocesan Board of Education, after consultation with the Parochial Church Council of the parish in which Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is situated.
7. The holders of the following offices shall be foundation governors ex-officio; The Principal Officiating Minister of the Parish in which Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled School is situated.
8. The Archdeacon of Cleveland shall be entitled to appoint a foundation governor to act in place of an ex-officio foundation governor whose governorship derives from the office named in 7. above, in the event that the ex-officio foundation governor is unable or unwilling to act as a foundation governor, or where there is a vacancy in the office by virtue of which his or her governorship exists.

9. The Archdeacon of Cleveland is entitled to request the removal of any ex-officio foundation governor and to appoint a substitute governor.

10. The ethos of Lythe Church of England Voluntary Controlled School is as follows:

*‘Our school community will flourish academically, physically and spiritually. All will shine as individuals and also as a school family, going on to enhance the wider community and the lives of those around them.’*

11. This instrument of Government comes into effect on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2026.

12. This instrument was made by order of North Yorkshire Local Authority on

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2026.

13. A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing body (and the Headteacher if not a governor), any trustees and to the appropriate religious body.