



The Heath Hill Partnership

It may seem like a long time ago that the Government announced all schools would become academies by 2020. Although this policy was quickly adjusted to 'schools where results are not measuring up to standards set for attainment and progress' and 'schools under local authorities that are no longer viable' will convert to academies, many schools had already begun to take action to convert. More recently the academies agenda has gone quiet, with Government busy with other things. Meanwhile, schools have been continuing to decide whether converting to an academy is the right move for their children, staff, parents and governors.

In Hertfordshire we have always been well supported by the Local Authority. However, with changes to the way schools are funded and some significant funding streams such as the Education Services Grant being cut altogether, we are being challenged to be more autonomous, collaborating with other schools to safeguard the broad and balanced education we work hard to provide.

In light of all this we have been seeking opportunities to collaborate with other schools without making the move to become an academy, something we have decided that for now is not the direction we want to take. These opportunities have led us to begin to work collaboratively as a group of schools:

- Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery
- Bernards Heath Junior
- Cunningham Hill Infant
- Cunningham Hill Junior

Chairs of Governors and Head Teachers have talked about the potential for innovative working within this partnership, while retaining all our legal and financial independence, and have agreed that the possibilities are endless. Children have remained at the centre of our discussion, reflecting a distinct similarity between the ethos and values of the four schools.

Continuing Professional Development will be our shared focus. Over this academic year we are planning to share expertise, look for opportunities to learn and support each other and find new and exciting ways to shape teaching and learning in our schools. This will include work on:

- Subject leadership - curriculum and progression in Foundation Subjects
- SENCO leadership - impact of interventions
- Teaching Assistant development and training
- Middle Leadership
- Learning Walks and monitoring
- Learning and play at lunchtimes

Without a clear strategic direction for our national education system it is up to schools to forge their own paths and create one that works for all our stakeholders. Through this partnership we know that we can achieve more than we could as a school on our own. The challenge we can provide each other and the expertise we can share will undoubtedly benefit all four schools.

We will update you as we explore and create opportunities as part of the Heath and Hill Partnership.

Hannah Rimmer - Head Vicky Pearlman - Chair of Governors Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery School	Katherine Cooper - Head Charmian Ellis - Chair of Governors Cunningham Hill Infant School	Sian Kilpatrick - Head Katherine Reeve - Chair of Governors Bernards Heath Junior School	Justine Elbourne - Clod Head Rondi Allan - Chair of Governors Cunningham Hill Junior School
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