



Provision for September 2018

08.01.2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent governing board meeting on Monday and discussion with parents and stakeholders, I am writing to let you know our final decision for the provision at our schools for next year. Having considered your concerns, a decision has been made for the schools to operate a single year group structure, which our unique federation enables us to offer, whereas the majority of local schools are unable to adopt this desirable teaching strategy. Our federation will have two centres of excellence, one for Early Years and Year 1 in the lower school at Barkway and an upper school for Years 2 to 4 at Barley.

Using this model, our provision will create a natural transition from preschool for children aged 2 to 6 and then one move to the older year groups, minimising transition issues between the two sites. Each class will have a dedicated teaching team to include a teacher and a TA. Key to our decision making has been the issue of transporting very young children from one site to another. This model ensures that consistent wraparound care can continue in partnership with the preschool. Year groups are now evenly spread across the two sites, providing larger peer groups to enhance children's social and emotional development. We will continue to work as a federation, and there will be opportunities throughout the school year for families to come together. For example, cross-curricular days, festivals, educational visits and our forest school.

We are developing plans to further enhance the early years provision at Barkway. We are working with the preschool to develop the site and ensure that our children have the very best learning environment.

We feel this is the best decision to take for the long-term future of our two schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Brown'.

Sharon Brown

Federation Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Cannon'.

Rev'd Cannon Ruth Pyke

Chair of Governors, Barley and Barkway Federation

