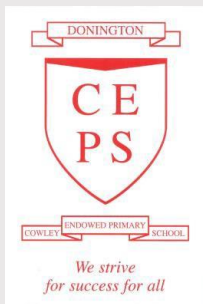


Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School



CONTACT

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Spalding
Lincolnshire PE11 4TR

Telephone:
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Website:
www.cowley.lincs.sch.uk

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St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery



CONTACT

West Road, Pointon, Sleaford,
Lincolnshire, NG34 0NA

Telephone:
01529 240465

Website:
www.stgilbertspointon.co.uk

Email:
admin@pointon.lincs.sch.uk

26th April 2024

Dear All,

We are writing to you to keep you informed of the ongoing strategic vision of Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School and St Gilbert of Sempringham CofE Primary School Pointon, and to explain how the governing bodies have been working hard to secure potential plans for the future development of both settings.

As you are all aware, over the last few months Mrs Foston has been acting as Executive Headteacher for both schools. As a result of this, there has been strong collaborative working relationship formed between us, and this is having a positive impact on staff development and pupil outcomes across the board.

Collaborative working practices within schools are vital for the sustainability and effective delivery of education and safeguarding of our young children. Although the Government's plans can change, there is an underlying ambition and a possible inevitability that by the end of this decade, all schools must either be part of, or working towards being part of a strong multi academy trust or federation arrangement with other schools.

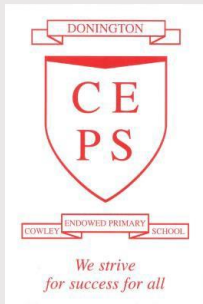
Some of the key benefits for all schools working on a collaborative basis are:-

- Better, broader and more enriched offer for pupils – both curricular & extra-curricular
- More opportunity to employ specialist staff
- Continued professional development for all staff
- Strengthened leadership structures and opportunities
- Better recruitment, succession planning & retention of staff and leaders
- Consistent moderation and benchmarking: using the same systems of assessment, data and finances
- Learning from each other
- More capacity for innovation
- Financial efficiencies utilising economies of scale
- Strong governance

These benefits all improve outcomes for children

Given the strong working relationship that has been formed, along with the multitude of benefits that have been realised by both St Gilberts and Donington Cowley in the short period of time that we have been working together, it is the intention of both governing bodies to explore the option of forming our own federation going forward, so that both schools can reap the potential benefits that this could offer.

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Please note and take comfort from the fact that under any arrangements, we would be able to protect the unique nature of each school whilst sharing resources and expertise.

Our vision for the relationship would be to have two distinct primary schools, each with their own individual identity and character, working together to develop outstanding educational outcomes for all our pupils.

We will keep you all updated on progress made going forward and will in due course be sending out an information pack for your perusal prior to entering into a consultation period with all stakeholders.

All official information will be either sent to you either directly, or posted on our school websites so you can keep abreast of the current stages of the process.

No official information will be posted, shared or discussed on social media, so please be aware that any information you see on these platforms should be disregarded.

Please note that we are in the very early stages of this process as it stands, and there is a lot of work to do to ensure that it has the intended results, but we wanted to communicate with you all at this time so that you will hopefully take comfort from being aware of our joint vision, and also to join us in the anticipation of this exciting opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Rob Cole (*Chair of Governors – Donington CEPS*)

Matt Timings (*Chair of Governors – St Gilberts, Pointon*)

