

Safeguarding Colvestone Primary School

CODE OF CONDUCT for PARENTS & VISITORS

- We expect all parents and visitors to be courteous to all members of staff and children in accordance with our general behavioural, equal opportunity and racial equality policies. Please also see the Home/School Agreement.
- All parents and visitors must sign in at the school office and receive and wear a visitor's badge if they are entering the school premises
- All parents and visitors must have a clear purpose for their visit to the school, which should be stated when they sign in at the office.
- Teachers are available at the start and the end of the day when they line their classes up in the playground to speak to parents and carers briefly.
- For any discussions of length/substance, parents must make an appointment with the member of staff concerned.
- Adults must never approach children directly regarding any issues/concerns. This should always be done via a member of staff or parent of the child.
- Failure to comply with the above may result in parents/visitors being banned from the school premises.
- School gates open at 8:40am
- Please leave promptly after collecting your child after school to prevent any safeguarding issues



Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2017



Colvestone Primary School and Thomas Fairchild Community School federated on September 1st 2017 after three years of a successful partnership, and a consultation process with parents and staff earlier this year. The federation is called Soaring Skies, and is committed to providing the best education and opportunities for over 600 children across the two schools.

Although you can find an outline of our shared vision on each school's website, I thought it would be helpful to explain a little more about what the federation means for the two schools, for its pupils and their parents and carers. All of the below can also be found on the websites for both schools.

Please feel free to contact me with any follow up questions you may have.

What is a federation?

A formal partnership between two schools, with an executive headteacher overseeing both staff and pupil bodies. I am executive headteacher of the Soaring Skies federation, and head of Colvestone Primary School. At Thomas Fairchild there is also a head of school, Ms. Heather Smith.

Does the federation benefit either school in terms of funding?

School budgets are under greater strain than ever, and this is more acute in a one-form school like Colvestone. Hackney's changing demographic also means the number of children who are eligible for pupil premium funding is decreasing, and will negatively affect our budgets.

Partnership with another school allows us to combine or exchange resources: for instance, for part of this year Colvestone's dancing and drumming House Time lessons have moved to Thomas Fairchild, while Colvestone is providing Mandarin, yoga and gardening instead. Both schools have resident gardeners and a shared resident artist. The delivery of sports clubs, art provision and other enrichment activities is more achievable when we are able to pool our resources.

We are also looking at other ways in which we can attract more funding: for instance, working closely with Colvestone's FSA which has charitable status and maximising the funding potential Thomas Fairchild has being so closely located to the city.

Soaring Skies Federation

Does the federation benefit either school in terms of staffing?

Yes, and this is one of the key factors driving the federation. Smaller schools (Colvestone is single-form, while Thomas Fairchild is two-form) can leave teachers with limited opportunities to progress - to mentor or learn from others, to take on additional responsibilities, to share experiences. With two sets of staff now working much more closely, there are greater opportunities for individuals to grow, meaning higher staff retention and greater stability for your children - as well as improved teaching and a more varied curriculum.

As executive head teacher for the Soaring Skies federation, I appointed Thomas Fairchild's head of school, Ms Heather Smith, in January 2016; she is a highly experienced teacher, with whom I have a long and collaborative working relationship. With Ms Smith in place, I am able to give the Soaring Skies federation, and Colvestone, the focus they need.

Has the federation affected the makeup of the governing bodies?

Yes. There is now a single governing body across both schools. Where we had two parent governors from each school on their respective governing bodies, we will now have one elected parent governor from each school; elections for this role will be held before October half term. The governing board is composed of two elected parent governors, one staff governor and the rest are co-opted or local authority governors.

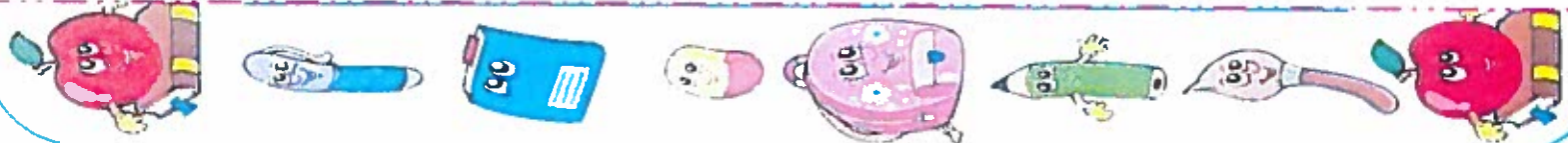
Will teachers or pupils be moving between schools? Will there be shared trips, school productions or other events?

The schools may share some staff, but lessons for pupils will take place on their own school sites. The federation does not affect the admissions process: parents will still apply on behalf of their children to the school of their choice. On occasion, pupils may visit other schools to share specialist resources or take part in joint events.

What would happen if the schools wanted to defederate at a later date?

The governing board will review the arrangement in five years' time, to see if it has been successful. If at any time a school wishes to leave the federation, there is a standard process we would follow.

These are demanding times for schools and for teachers. It is my firm belief that together we are stronger - more resilient and flexible in a time of change, more outward-facing, and better placed to achieve the excellent results I want for all Soaring Skies pupils.



Soaring Skies Leadership Team

Hello there, I am Mr Macfarlane and I am Deputy Head at Colvestone where I have been since 2010. My role, working as part of the Senior Leadership Team, is to help ensure Soaring Skies pupils receive the best educational offer in Hackney. I am strategic lead for assessment, data analysis and mathematics across the Federation as well as driving and improving standards in upper key stage 2.

Hello, I am Ms Smith and I am the Head of the school at Thomas Fairchild. I came to the school in January 2016 after being a deputy Headteacher previously. I lead the day to day running of the school but also work across Soaring Skies Federation. I work in partnership with Miss King to ensure that pupils are happy, successful and valued. I am committed to each child achieving their personal best so that they are equipped to be life-long learners.

I am Miss King and I have been the Headteacher at Colvestone since 2014. I am excited to be now leading the Soaring Skies federation and working to ensure that the educational provision across the federation is excellent and equitable for all children. I have a total commitment to ensuring that all members of the school community are respected and valued and the diversity is celebrated. Having been educated and raised in Hackney it is now a privilege to be leading within the borough and working with your children every day to help them realise their full potential.

Hi, I am Miss Halder and I am Deputy Headteacher leading on Early Years and Key Stage One. I oversee phonics planning, teaching and assessment in these key stages. I am also a year 2 teacher. I am based at Thomas Fairchild School and this is my sixth year of working here. I believe that teaching should be creative and challenging so children choose to engage in their learning. Part of my role is to guide Early Years practitioners in developing positive relationships with parents from the beginning so we can work in partnership to support children.

I am Miss Jennifer Hippolyte and I have been working at Colvestone for the past 7 years. I am the Assistant Headteacher across the Soaring Skies Federation and one of the designated safeguarding leads at Colvestone. My role within the federation is to develop the special educational needs working practices with Ms Ryan, improving standards for children with special educational needs. In this role, I will be leading on the progress and provision for children with special educational needs including behaviour and medical needs. Supporting children and their families at Colvestone and in the Early Years Foundation Stage at Thomas Fairchild, to ensure inclusive practices for children with additional needs. In September, I will also be the Year 2 teacher at Colvestone.

I am Miss Daniel, I am a Deputy Head at Thomas Fairchild but I am also a class teacher in Year 4 to drive up standards from within the classroom. Attendance is an area that requires a lot of input and why I lead on this with support from the school office. My role also covers being the link for parents in KS2.

I am Ms Ryan and have worked as Deputy Head at Thomas Fairchild for four years. I am responsible for driving and improving the quality of teaching and learning. I lead child protection and also lead the Inclusion Team, which covers all aspects of progress and provision for children with special educational needs including behaviour and medical needs. Working alongside Ms Hippolyte, I support children, parents, staff and governors in the federation to ensure that children with additional needs receive the most stimulating and inclusive education possible.

