

## Models of Collaboration – A Comparison

### 1. Background

- 1.1 There are several ways to establish a working arrangement between the schools, primarily under the headings of "clustering" and "ffederalising".
- 1.2 Clusters have existed for several years in Gwynedd.
- 1.3 When submitting a draft strategy to re-arrange Gwynedd primary schools in October 2007, a formal model of a federal school was outlined.
- 1.4 During September 2008, a consultation document was published by the Assembly Government which suggested an alternative model for establishing a federal school. A response was provided by Gwynedd Council. The final guidance has not yet appeared by the Assembly, but they are expected to come forward in the autumn of 2009. However, it is possible to discuss the basic features of the consultation document.
- 1.5 The following paper notes the main factors – those that are likely and those that are different – the three models.

### 2. General Points

- 2.1 The models of clustering, formal federalising and the Government's proposed new model of federalising have a number of similarities, including:
  - Maintain continuity and school attendance
  - merge two or more schools under the leadership of one head
  - offers opportunities for greater collaboration between the schools including sharing staff expertise
  - offer formal opportunities to bring children together for specific sessions
- 2.2 The models also have unique features. These are outlined in the table below.
- 2.3 It is noted that the analysis of the Government's model of federal school is based on the consultation document October 2008 and not on firm guidelines. These guidelines are expected during October 2009. Possible models based on the consultative document are projected in the table below.

Factor	Model		
	Clustering	Formal Federal School	The Government's assumption of new models
<b>Legal status of the arrangement</b>	Schools continue as statutory independent schools	All statutory school closes and subsequently re-opened as sites within the Federal School	Schools will continue as a independent statutory schools but with medium-term formal agreement to work together
	Individual schools will agree to continue or to end the regular arrangement.	Permanent arrangement.	Individual schools will agree to continue or to end the regular arrangement.
	Site could not be closed without a full commitment to the statutory process	Governing body or the Council could offer to close a site without going through a statutory process	Site could not be closed without a full commitment to the statutory process
<b>Number of Schools</b>	The continuation of the schools as fully independent schools means that no more than two schools can be clustered.	Usually, 3-4 schools can be federalised.	There is no limit on the number of schools. However, informal nature numbers are closer to cluster than to federal.
<b>Leadership and Management</b>	Individual governing bodies continue and co-operate on specific matters.	One governing body for one multi-site school. Would need to increase the number of governors to ensure representation for each site.	Individual governing bodies agree to establish a single federal body for the new school. Increasing the number of governors to around 20 to ensure

			representation for each school is suggested.
	Head of one school agrees to take responsibility for leading other school.	One head appointed by the joint governing body	Various - one head could be appointed by the joint governing body, or one control officer to oversee a number of schools where the heads of individual schools will continue
	The site head responsible for the site that is not the head's work place.	The site head(s) responsible for the site(s) that is not the head's work place.	The site head(s) responsible for the site(s) that is not the head's work place.
<b>Finance</b>	Individual budgets of individual schools will continue. Agreement between the governing bodies to fund some joint elements.	Same budget includes recognition of the maintenance needs of multi-site school.	Individual budgets by individual schools, the governing body agrees to merge budgets entirely or merging elements of the budget for specific issues.
	No significant change to the schools budget except the need to pay wage to one teacher instead of one extra head.	Permanent savings in establishing a budget, establishing a head post, one governing body.	Potential savings, but are not permanent because the arrangement of a federal school would be non-statutory under these draft regulations.
<b>Ending the arrangement</b>	Informal arrangement, so any governmental body individually or collectively	Formal, statutory arrangement. Could not change the arrangement	Informal arrangement, so any governmental body individually or collectively

	can decide ending the arrangement at any time.	without statutory consultation.	can decide ending the arrangement at any time.
<b>Denominational education</b>	No effect, as each individual school will continue as an entity.	Agreement required on the status of the school between the schools as the new school would be a legal entity.	Effect not envisaged as individual schools would remain as independent legal entities.