



Oliver Burwood

DNEAT Chief Executive Officer
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcoming The Dove Federation to DNEAT – A message from the Trust’s CEO

As many of you will know, your child’s school converted to become an academy, as part of The Dove Federation, and joined the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) on 1st November. It is my great pleasure to welcome all pupils, families and staff to the DNEAT family.

I’m very excited that the Dove Federation has, finally, joined DNEAT. I know this has been a long journey. It has been frustrating at times for staff and families at Parker’s and Caston, as well as for ourselves. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and DNEAT.

DNEAT is the Trust set up by the Diocese of Norwich in 2013 to provide a home for any Church of England School that wished to, or was required to, become an academy. Parker’s and Caston mean we now serve 36 academies. Many of the academies we serve are small (around half have less than 100 children) and in Federations. We have developed a real passion and expertise for supporting these academies across the Diocese.

We share your schools’ staff’s passion that both Caston and Parker’s should be the best schools that they can be and that both schools should make the most of being part of The Dove Federation and part of DNEAT, while keeping their own distinctive characteristics and that of their local communities. We all want the children of Caston and Parker’s to be safe, well cared for, to enjoy their education, to achieve well and to make a great start in life.

Being part of DNEAT - What will change/what won’t?

Although there is change when any school converts to become an academy some key elements of how we run academies will feel familiar. We support staff in school to deliver the most effective and engaging curriculum possible so that children develop a love of learning and can achieve everything of which they are capable. We offer an extensive training programme to all staff in order to make this happen.

We work very closely with Local Governing Bodies, with parent governor representation, to help us really understand the communities that our academies serve and to work in partnership to improve schools for children. We are very keen that the local governing body

Faith in Success



includes parent governors. Your school has already written to you to let you know how you can become a governor, should you wish to.

One mantra of ours is that 'Headteachers run the schools.' We give the right level support and challenge to Headteachers so that they are best placed to carry out their role and lead effectively. Headteachers are also placed in a supportive, pro-active regional group with other DNEAT academies and Headteachers. Each academy not only has access to our Academy Improvement Team (AIT) but also to the range of back-office functions, such as HR advice, finance and health and safety advice, that allow Headteachers to focus on improving their schools. As a result of this support, we have a strong track record of improving the academies we work with. 85% of DNEAT academies are rated 'good' or better by Ofsted (in line with national average) and we have shown year on year improvement in terms of pupils' academic outcomes, although this is an area in which we still want to do better.

Lastly, it is important to me to underline the fact that both academies in the Federation remain as part of the wider Diocesan family of church schools. The Christian ethos that runs through the Diocese also runs through DNEAT academies and we are proud of our track record here also. We check that our academies continue to live by Christian values and remain welcoming places of learning to families and children of all faiths and none. Our academies continue to be inspected as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), and we are proud that over 95% of academies are rated as 'good' or better by this process.

I do hope that this gives you a flavour of what being part of DNEAT will feel like. I know that the federation is looking to mark and celebrate this new chapter in each school's life, and I look forward to meeting some of you at this event, be it in person or virtually.

A message from the Executive Headteacher, Sarah Disney

As a federation, we are pleased to have finally joined DNEAT after a long wait.

I have been working closely with DNEAT since July and am already seeing the benefits that being part of this organisation will bring. DNEAT are passionate about supporting us to continue to improve, grow, and overcome the barriers that the schools have previously faced whilst maintaining each school's and The Dove Federation's unique characteristics.

I truly believe that with DNEAT's support we will flourish, and I am looking forward to being part of this journey.



A message from the Chair of Governors, Mike Dwyer

A welcome also from myself as the incoming Chair of Governors for the Dove Federation. I have been Chair at the Nar Valley Federation for almost 6 years and so have extensive experience of the complexities involved where small schools come together.

The immediate impact from a Governance process in this somewhat crazy world we are in has completely changed the way we Governors operate to support all our schools. Currently we are not allowed to access schools, so all our contacts and meetings are done via emails, telephone and online. This does curtail our ability to monitor in the classrooms but has resulted in our using online and photographic evidence to observe teaching and pupils works. Importantly, Governors and staff are finding online meetings can be more focussed (they have to be) and allow staff to take part in meetings held at more realistic working hours. Something they all appreciate given their considerable additional workloads due to Covid compliance.

As Oliver comments above our first aim is to recruit 2 parent Governors and 1 staff Governor to enlarge our Local Governing Board and I ask you to seriously consider joining us. I have always been an advocate for primary education as this forms the bedrock for all children. It is wonderful to see the way our 4 and 5 year old new entrants come into school wanting to know the why, where and when of everything. It is our job to turn that into a passion for lifelong learning and provide them with the skills they need into adulthood. Wouldn't you wish to be part of that?

My regards to all of you and your children.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood
Chief Executive Officer
DNEAT

Sarah Disney
Executive Headteacher
The Dove Federation

Mike Dwyer
Chair of Governors
The Dove Federation