

**Neil Ryder**

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**Subject:** FW: FW: Compton School

**From:** Anthony Davies

**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 12:38 AM

**To:** [joint.chairs@dvsf.school](mailto:joint.chairs@dvsf.school) <[joint.chairs@dvsf.school](mailto:joint.chairs@dvsf.school)>

**Subject:** Compton School

Further to my letter to Neil Ryder via Rachel Foister, Clerk to Compton Parish Council, I wish to add the following as Council Chairman:

I have now had the opportunity to consult informally with all Councillors and the support for this federation is unanimous.

In the Autumn of 2019 it became apparent that a number of rural primary schools were under consideration for closure. Compton and Up Marden CE Primary School was designated as one such. When Paul Wagstaff visited the village to measure and to gauge the reaction of the School and the Community he was met by a measured but determined and well informed response. The value of the school to the community and the benefit of its location and continuance was forcefully expressed. He must have been impressed by what he heard, for the school avoided closure.

However, it was clear that the school could not continue as it was. The LA stipulated that, and we, as representatives of the Community, acknowledge it. The pupil numbers have dropped, perhaps in part due to the aftershock caused by the methodology of the 2019 LA assessment, but for whatever reason, that result presents an unsustainable situation, not helped by the last Ofsted rating. This school deserves better; it deserves to exist to provide a good, rounded education in a delightful rural setting.

What the Downland Village Schools Federation of Rake and Rogate Primary Schools has achieved so far, is impressive. Further, their makeup and ethos would seem to blend with that of Compton. Add to that the consideration of what can be gained by the amalgamation of staff, governance, experience and resources and you have reasons for the support which the Parish Council give to this proposal.

Yours, Anthony Davies