

Neil Ryder

Subject: RE: Proposed DOWNLAND VILLAGE SCHOOLS FEDERATION

From: Sarah Lawton <xxxxxxx@gmail.com>

Sent: 20 February 2021 15:56

To: joint.chairs@dvsf.school

Subject: Proposed DOWNLAND VILLAGE SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Dear school governors

As a past vice chair of the board of governors of the school, I write in support of the proposed federation. I see this as a lifeline for Compton & Up Marden CE School which has for some time struggled to maintain critical numbers, in part because of dwindling numbers of children in the area. I think that the opportunity for the school to join with the DVSF is an exciting one and believe that it will help the school to achieve a good Ofsted rating. This in turn will attract more pupils to the school both locally but also from further afield. Small schools are valuable as each child can be known individually but being part of something larger brings benefits in terms of expertise and resources.

The school was in great danger of being closed in 2019 and thankfully this did not happen as it was deemed worthy of saving. I strongly believe that the proposed federation will allow it to flourish again and continue to play the vital role in this rural community of the South Downs National Park. The presence of a good local school will attract more families to our beautiful area and this in turn will help our community thrive.

In short, being a DVSF school has benefits on all fronts.

Kind regards,

Sarah Lawton

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