



The chairs of governors
Downland Village Schools Federation and
Compton and Up Marden C of E Primary School

12th February 2021

Proposal to add Compton school to DVSF

Dear Carolyn and Neil

Thank you for your letter of 25th January asking for our views on the proposed enlargement of DVSF. We have circulated the proposal to our parish council members and we discussed it with interest at our meeting on 10th February.

As we told you last year, my fellow councillors and I have been delighted to see the rapid improvement that has taken place at Rogate primary since it went into partnership with Rake in 2018, and particularly since it created the federation last year. Rogate came very close to closure after its disastrous Ofsted inspection in 2016, as it had in 2008, amply demonstrating the volatility of small rural primaries. One year after its partnership with Rake was signed, it regained its 'good' rating from Ofsted and it reported in our parish magazine that its pupil intake this year was the largest anyone can remember.

We have recently completed a local residents' survey throughout Rogate and Trotton, where the first question was "How important do you think the following facilities would be to the future of the village?" and the school came second out of all the local amenities, very closely behind the village shop / post office - a remarkable renaissance!

We understand from local parents and others that these two schools now have the most advanced remote learning facilities of all the local schools and that the teachers can do most of this from home, so that they each only need to be in school twice a week during this covid pandemic, helping to cut local transmission as well as safeguarding their own and the local children's health.

If you can save another little local school from probable closure, future-proof all three schools and, at the same time, further improve the education of our local children – as you suggest - we are obviously very much in favour.

Please thank the governors and staff for all they are doing for local families and we wish you all luck with your plans.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Dawtrey, chairman