CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LAYCOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
EASY READ VERSION

CONSULTATION PERIOD: 6 JANUARY 2026 – 24 FEBRUARY 2026
PROPOSED FEDERATION DATE: APPROXIMATELY 6 MAY 2026

WHAT IS THIS CONSULTATION ABOUT?

The Governors and Board members of our two schools want to formalise our successful two-year partnership by creating a Federation. This will secure the future of both schools whilst preserving what makes each special.

WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?

- ✓ **School names, uniforms, and identities**
- ✓ **School buildings and locations**
- ✓ **Day-to-day experience for your child**
- ✓ **Separate budgets and Ofsted inspections**
- ✓ **The specialist deaf provision at Laycock**
- ✓ **Both schools remain maintained schools (not academies)**

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

- **Complete the online survey:** Click here
- **Attend informal consultation session**
- **Complete a paper copy of the survey available from the school office.**

Consultation closes: 24 February 2026 at 5pm

WHAT IS A FEDERATION?

A federation is a legal partnership between maintained schools. It will formalise what already works well between Laycock and Thornhill.

In practice this means:

- Both schools keep their own names, uniforms, buildings and identities
- One governing body provides oversight for both schools
- Shared Executive Headteacher (Jenny Lewis)
- Each school has its own Head of School for day-to-day running
- Separate budgets (though we can buy some things together to save money)
- Separate Ofsted inspections
- Both schools stay as maintained schools, not academies

Why Federation?

- Secures the future of both schools in a challenging landscape
- Builds on our successful two-year partnership
- Creates more opportunities for all children
- Strengthens leadership and governance
- Preserves what makes each school special
- Keeps both schools as maintained community schools

Benefits for pupils:

- Stability with continued strong leadership
- Access to excellent teaching and specialist expertise
- Enhanced curriculum and enrichment opportunities
- Deaf provision continues with highly Qualified Teachers of the Deaf
- Opportunities to build friendships across neighbouring schools

Benefits for parents:

- Confidence in stable, strong leadership
- Security that your child's school will thrive
- Stronger schools working together
- Schools remain accountable to Islington families

WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME, WHAT WILL CHANGE?

What will STAY THE SAME?	What will EVOLVE?
✓ School names, uniforms, and individual identities ✓ School buildings and locations ✓ Your child's day-to-day experience ✓ The specialist deaf provision at Laycock ✓ Individual school budgets ✓ Separate Ofsted inspections ✓ Maintained community sector status (LA schools)	→ Broader expertise through single governing body → More opportunities for children to connect → Enhanced staff collaboration → Deeper collaboration on curriculum and SEND → Enhanced career pathways for staff

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE OF THE FEDERATION

School Leadership

The Federation will be led by:

- **Executive Headteacher: Jenny Lewis** - strategic leadership across both schools
- **Head of School, Laycock: Fred Hall** - day-to-day running
- **Head of School, Thornhill: Paul Robinson** - day-to-day running

Your child's school leaders will remain focused on your school.

School Governance

If we federate, a new single governing body will govern both schools with 12 governors:

- 2 parent governors (elected by parents from both schools)
- 1 staff governor (elected by staff from both schools)
- 1 Local Authority governor
- 1 Executive Headteacher
- 7 co-opted governors (including a deaf education specialist)

Each school will continue to set and manage its own budget. There are no plans to pool budgets.

INFORMAL CONSULTATION SESSION

Come and ask questions. No need to book – just turn up any time during the session.

Laycock Primary School	Thornhill Primary School
14 January 2026 5-6pm Laycock Street, London N1 1SW	**21 January 2026** 5-6pm Thornhill Road, London N1 1HX

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CONSULTATION?

After the consultation closes on 24 February 2026:

- Both governing bodies will review all responses
- Each governing body will meet separately to consider your views
- Both governing bodies will vote on whether to proceed
- Both must agree for federation to happen

If both agree, the Federation will begin approximately 6 May 2026.

If either decides not to proceed, the Federation will not happen.

NEED HELP?

If you need this document in another language, in audio format, or need support to complete the survey, please contact your school office.

A detailed Frequently Asked Questions document is available on both school websites. This will be updated in response to questions raised in the survey.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal. We look forward to reading your responses.

Prue Barnes-Kemp, Chair of Laycock IEB

Lisa McCrindle, Chair of Thornhill Governing Body