



## Foundation Status

**At a governing body meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011  
the Governors of The Phoenix Canberra Schools Federation  
agreed to start the process to change the status of  
Canberra Primary School  
to a Foundation school with a  
potential implementation date of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012.**

The governing body of The Phoenix Canberra Schools Federation is considering a change of category for Canberra Primary School to become a Foundation school in line with the Government's plans for a reformed system of strong, autonomous schools and a modernised role for local authorities. The decision to change category resides entirely with the governing body. However, we are committed to considering the views of all interested parties and we explain below how you may make your views known.

There are **three key differences** between a Foundation school and a Community school. In a Foundation school:-

- the governing body has formal ownership of the assets (land and buildings);
- the governing body is the direct employer of the school's staff; and
- the governing body is the admission authority. In addition the governing body has the power to publish statutory proposals for other changes to the school, such as acquiring a sixth form or opening a nursery class.

Canberra Primary School and the governing body of The Phoenix Canberra Schools Federation are committed to exercising the increased autonomy which Foundation status brings, within the framework of fair funding and fair admissions. Foundation status is intended to promote innovation and educational entrepreneurship by giving school leaders more freedom to decide how best to meet the needs of their pupils, parents and wider communities, and Foundation schools have the flexibility to maximise the use of their assets. A vital part of the Government's vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision. We believe Foundation status will help us to achieve this vision.

As the admission authority we are committed to serving the local community and we would have to 'act in accordance with' the Code of Practice for admissions. If it is decided that Canberra Primary School will become a Foundation school we will consult on our proposed admission policy within the timescales in the Code. Until this process is completed admissions into the school will be under the same oversubscription criteria as are operating now.

Canberra Primary School's relationship and collaborative working with other schools and partnerships will continue in the same way as now. As our commitment to local partnerships will remain we will be actively seeking to maximise the impact on standards that these bring to the school.

We believe that we have the experience and expertise to use the additional autonomies of Foundation status to continue the development of the school and raise standards. It is very clear that the Government sees greater autonomy for schools as the next stage in the development of the education service and wants schools to be more proactive in developing their individual strengths in response to the needs of the local community.

There is an expectation from government that schools will take a lead in delivering the Every Child Matters agenda and the vision of Extended Schools. The additional freedoms open to Canberra Primary School as a Foundation school and its commitment to co-operation with other agencies will, we believe, be an important component in the school's development of these initiatives.

Some **important things would not change** if Canberra Primary School were to become a foundation school:

- The governing body would still have elected parent and staff governors. Any governor in a category existing in the Foundation school governing body would have the right to complete their term of office on the Foundation school GB if they so wished. This would give us some continuity of governors.
- Canberra Primary School would be funded according to the agreed LA scheme in the same way as all other schools in the LA.
- Canberra Primary School would still be an important part of the local community of schools and would have the opportunity through the Admission Forum and Schools Forum to contribute to local decisions.
- Canberra Primary School would not become a selective school and would continue to accept SEN children as it does now. We have explained that we would consult about any admissions policy.

The next step will be a meeting of the governing body on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 to consider any responses made to the school and governing body during the consultation period and make a decision about continuing with the process. The consultation process ends on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and all responses must be received by that date.

We welcome any comments you might wish to make in writing or by email using the following address:

Executive Headteacher/Chair of Governors  
The Phoenix Canberra Schools Federation  
Phoenix High School  
The Curve  
Shepherds Bush  
London W12 0RQ

Or the following email address:

headteachers\_pa@phoenix.lbhf.sch.uk

If you would like to find out more about what it means to become a foundation school we will be holding a 'surgery' at Canberra Primary School on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December between the times of 5:30pm and 6:30pm when any representations you might want to make in person will be welcome. It would assist our organisation of this if you could inform us by phone (020 8735 1501) or email (headteachers\_pa@phoenix.lbhf.sch.uk) if you are proposing to attend.

We will tell you about the formal process when we have considered any responses received during the consultation period and made the decision about whether to continue.

### Consultation Period Timetable and Meetings

Date/Time	Arrangements
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	Consultation period starts
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 4:00pm	Meeting with staff at Canberra Primary School
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 5:30pm	Public meeting at Canberra Primary School
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Consultation period closes
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Governing body meeting to consider responses to consultation



Sir William S Atkinson  
**Executive Headteacher**



Rosemary Farrar  
**Chair of Governors**