

EXE VALLEY & MOORSWAY FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

September 2026 to July 2027



“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

*Aristotle, 384 to 322 BC, quoted at the Diocese of Exeter’s
Flourishing Schools Gathering, 17th March 2026*

Introduction

The quote on the cover of this year's Federation Development Plan reminds us that education is about much more than the acquisition of knowledge and was used by a speaker at the Diocese of Exeter's Flourishing Schools Gathering in March this year. Over the last two years, senior leaders and governors have been engaged in the Flourishing Schools programme of training with the Diocese of Exeter and have benefitted considerably from working across a wider group of schools. What we have taken from the programme applies just as much to community schools as Church schools, because at the heart of what we do, we want children to learn grow emotionally and spiritually just as much as we want them to acquire knowledge and skills.

The government's Schools White Paper, 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving' echoes this belief in its vision for education by stating that *"Children thrive when the love and support they receive at home is built on by a stretching, enriching, and inclusive school experience."* One of the most significant proposals in the White Paper relates to changes to SEND provision and a commitment to children with special educational needs and disabilities being able to attend their local mainstream school and have their needs met by highly trained teachers, leaders and support staff. This will be achieved through a new tiered approach to support, new individual support plans (ISPs) and 'inclusion bases' in mainstream settings. There is also a commitment in the White Paper to support disadvantaged pupils and to increase engagement in education by pupils who may become disengaged. Alongside this, there is a drive to increase enrichment opportunities for pupils, with a new enrichment entitlement and Enrichment Framework to be published this academic year. Finally, there is an expectation that all schools will move towards being part of school trusts, including new trusts established by local authorities (LAs) or area partnerships.

There are also proposals being made to change the curriculum for schools by the start of the 2028 academic year. The majority of proposals by Prof. Becky Francis relate to secondary school provision, but include strengthening the primary PSHE curriculum by including Citizenship and making Religious Education a National Curriculum subject. The new curriculum will introduce a core offer of enrichment for all pupils that provides access to civic engagement, arts and culture, nature, outdoor and adventure activities, and wider life skills. A lot of these areas are already part of the Exe Valley and Moorsway's wider curriculum offer and are already being taught in most classrooms across the school group.

The opportunity to write a new Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2031 has been well-timed in the light of all these proposals. Senior leaders from the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation and the South Hams Federation met in early March to start to shape our strategy for the next five years, taking into account the Schools White Paper and curriculum review and other significant proposals. This was a hugely positive day and inspiring in the way that leaders are looking forward to the challenges on the horizon. This was followed by a very thorough meeting with governors who scrutinised the plans in depth and suggested changes. We then gave parents an opportunity to hear about our strategic plan and to share their ideas for the future direction of the federation and finally, asked pupils for their views through school councils. As a result of this process, we very much hope that this process enabled us to gather the views of all stakeholders and so that everyone helps to shape the vision and then commit to it.

John Jolliffe

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Executive Principal
July 2026

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The new Federation Strategic Plan gives all the schools a clear direction for the next five years. Underneath this, the Federation Development Plan allows us to identify the ways in which we will work towards our strategic aims this year. After this, each school then has its own School Development Plan, which enables each Head of School to write a plan that reflects their school's unique character and identity. This enables senior leaders to shape and direct their energy into specific objectives that are relevant to each school's current position. It also allows governors to hold senior leaders to account as they evaluate the impact of each school's progress towards meeting these aims. This takes place when governors read Head's reports three times a year at Governor Hub meetings and ask questions about the school's progress. As we work through these aims, we will move towards achieving our vision of the characteristics that we want to see in our schools by 2031:

- All our schools recognised for high-quality teaching and strong outcomes
- A shared inclusion model that is admired beyond the local authority
- Stable or rising pupil numbers across the group
- A distinctive rural curriculum that draws families in
- Strong partnerships with local and national organisations
- Confident, outward-facing staff who collaborate across schools
- Children who are articulate, resilient, and proud of their school

Aim 1: Educational Excellence: Learning for Life

Deliver consistently high-quality teaching through a rich, context-driven curriculum that builds strong early literacy, numeracy and speaking skills and ensures all pupils make excellent progress and achieve highly.

This is how we will work towards achieving this aim in each school:

- Focusing on early oracy skills, writing transcription and mathematical fluency
- Providing wider curriculum opportunities, including low-cost, high value, residential visits
- Teaching pupils about online safety, including safe use of AI in schools
- Providing guidance for pupils and parents on the safe use of smart phones
- Giving pupils opportunities to be agents of change in their school

Aim 2: Inclusion, Wellbeing & Belonging

Provide an inclusive, trauma-informed environment with strong pastoral support, skilled staff, and effective early-help partnerships to meet the needs of every pupil and adult.

This is how we will work towards achieving this aim in each school:

- Increasing capacity for supporting pupils with additional needs through the inclusion team, focusing on speech and language, pastoral support and Early Help
- Narrowing the attainment gap through inclusive practice and precise interventions
- Enhancing relational practice through training and sharing good practice
- Valuing all staff through a strong wellbeing offer, including supervision for Inclusion Leads and all school leaders
- Supporting new school leaders to flourish in their roles and drive continuous improvement through coaching and team support

Aim 3: Distinctive rural education

Equip pupils for their future by celebrating local culture, promoting sustainability, building strong digital skills and online safety, and preparing them confidently for the next stage of their learning journey.

This is how we will work towards achieving this aim in each school:

- Developing outdoor learning opportunities and eco initiatives in each school
- Involving local artists, historians and community members in school projects
- Providing a strong secondary transition programme for Year 6 leavers
- Promoting Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice so that pupils confidently challenge injustice through deepening understanding of worldviews
- Sustaining Church school distinctiveness through induction training and Flourishing Trails

Aim 4: Outward-Facing Collaboration

Build wide-ranging connections through pupil experiences, professional networks, and partnerships with secondary schools, the Diocese of Exeter, cultural organisations, and the wider community.

This is how we will work towards achieving this aim in each school:

- Building leadership capacity through an educational partnership with South Hams Federation
- Exploring purposeful partnerships with universities and colleges to enhance pupils' experiences
- Creating professional development opportunities to support colleagues in other schools in the partnership and beyond
- Preparing for the new National Curriculum and the inclusion of RE and Christianity as a world religion through professional development opportunities
- Developing links with the Diocese of Exeter through participating in training and sharing good practice with other Church Schools

Aim 5: Sustainability and Growth

Ensure long-term sustainability through strategic pupil-number planning, forward-looking collaboration, strong financial resilience and continued investment in digital infrastructure.

This is how we will work towards achieving this aim in each school:

- Sustaining pupil numbers by broadening provision for two year olds and wrap around care and planning for future expansion where necessary
- Introducing Greening our schools projects in each school
- Developing sustainability projects to reduce carbon footprints and reduce environmental impact
- Preparing for new systems of school management through exploring options for joining a Local Authority MAT or converting to academy status independently
- Building future leadership capacity through accessing nationally recognised training courses