

Annex 1

Differences between amalgamation and federation of schools

	Amalgamation	Federation
Decision	LA and/or schools may propose. LA decides after consultation.	Schools propose. Schools decide after consultation.
Consultation	2 stages – first usually for 6 weeks on the proposals. Then issue a statutory notice and allow 4 weeks ‘for ‘representations’	1 stage – 6 weeks
School identity/legal status	Involves closure of all but one school and expansion of the remaining school. End up with one expanded school.	No school closures. All schools keep existing identity and name.
OfSTED	Inspection of one amalgamated school	Separate inspections for each school
OfSTED designation	Expanded school has designation of expanded school (outstanding)	All schools keep existing designation (outstanding)
Governance	One ‘re-constituted’ governing body for the amalgamated school.	One ‘re-constituted’ governing body for the federated schools.
Headteacher	Usually one headteacher or executive head over the amalgamated school, but other models are possible and could involve associate heads heading up certain functions or sites	Either separate headteachers for each school or one headteacher or executive head over the federated school, but other models are possible and could involve associate heads heading up certain functions or sites
Staffing structure	Usually one staffing structure for the amalgamated school but other models are possible.	Either one staffing structure or separate ones for each site
Budgets	Amalgamated school funded as a single school	Each school receives separate local authority funding but the governing body may then choose either to keep the budgets or to pool them all and manage them as one budget.
Admissions	Admissions to the one school but distance criteria will take account of the distance from the nearest school site	Admissions are managed separately for each school