



Please reply to: Richard Williams, Director of Children's Services, Torbay Council, 2nd Floor (South), Tor Hill House, c/o Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR

All Schools and Academies

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Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, Suzie Franklin will be leaving her post as Executive Head of Schools for Torbay at the end of August. I have been working closely with her to develop an effective and new service structure that both supports and challenges schools and continues to ensure that the Local Authority meets its statutory duties. To that end I am currently consulting with staff and the unions on a new service structure that achieves this. I am therefore now in a position to let you know what the arrangements will be from September.

As the teaching school has continued to develop we have commissioned increasing amounts of work from the alliance over the past two years. From September we will commission all school improvement support from the Torbay Teaching School Alliance. I will sit on the Strategic Board and chair the School to School Support Board. If the teaching school does not have capacity or the specific expertise required at any one time then this would be commissioned through the teaching school from other locally trusted providers. I will, when necessary, be directly involved in schools that are underperforming or facing specific challenges.

To assist me in this work, Debbie Horn will be leaving her role as Workforce Development Officer and will be the School Performance and Improvement Officer. This role will report directly to me and will be responsible for ensuring that I have accurate data and information about the performance of all schools and the support being delivered. Debbie will also ensure that all our statutory functions are being met as well as taking a lead on the preparation for any Local Authority School Improvement Inspection. She will continue in her role as Moderation Manager for the Local Authority and Lesley Gibbings will be moving back into the schools team to provide data support.

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As you know, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that all children and young people have access to a high quality education and achieve well. I will continue to monitor the performance of all schools in Torbay regardless of their designation. This will include having termly meetings with the Diocesan directors, regional HMI and the Regional School Commissioner.

Other staff and teams that will be directly supporting both myself in this role and yourselves will include Dorothy Hadleigh, SEN Service Manager, Rachael Williams, Early Years Service Manager, Jane Inett, Headteacher of the Virtual School and Service Manager for Vulnerable Pupils, Tricia Harwood, Schools Services Manager. As you know, Tricia principally manages the teams delivering admissions, school transport, free school meals, governor services and the pupil referral panel. I have included with this letter, the contact details for each of these Managers and Officers. If you have any concerns or need support in these areas, they can be contacted directly and will either provide that information, support you or signpost you onto other professionals or services who may be better placed to do so.

The new structure is being implemented on the basis that it will be reviewed in consultation with you over the next nine months to ensure that it is effective.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope you all have a lovely restful summer holiday

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Williams', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Williams

Director of Children's Services