



**INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

20.7.21

## Governor Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my first note as co-chair of the governors for the federation. I think it is fair to say that the last year has brought challenges that nobody could have anticipated before 2020. My overriding sentiment is one of immense pride in the whole school community, particularly the staff and the children given how well they have adapted to the enforced changes in school routines. I would like to thank you all for your support in helping keep school safe during these unprecedented times.

One of the federation's biggest successes this year has to be the quality of the remote learning provision and the attitude the children have had with regards to online learning. Again, this is thanks to the wonderful staff we have in school. I hope I can speak for all parents in expressing heartfelt thanks to Miss Pickard and the staff team for making this possible. And let us not forget the parents and carers! I doubt it has been easy for any of us! As a parent myself I found myself juggling video conferencing with work whilst trying to figure out what a subordinate conjunction really is (if you figured it out do let me know!). So well done to you all too. This is one example of many where we can say that the whole school community came together to embody our value of 'Working together to be the best that we can be!'

Another huge undertaking this year was completely reconfiguring the curriculum to ensure it aligned with the new Ofsted framework and clearly demonstrates progression within subjects throughout your child's time at the school. Additionally, we have seen the development of new Ethos and Values, a Federation logo, updated individual school logos and a new website developed. All of which are a credit to the hard work and dedication of the staff team who have risen to the challenges that have faced them and ensured our children get the very best, all with a smile on their face. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants, lunch time supervisors and administrators, led and encouraged by our school leadership team.

Before I became a school governor in 2017, the role of the governing board was somewhat of a mystery to me, therefore I guess it may be for some of you too? As such, I thought it would be helpful to highlight our role.

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## The role of the governing board is to:

1. Work with the Headteacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement.
2. Ensure that the Governing Body sets a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
3. Ensure that the Governing Body holds the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff
4. Ensure oversight of the financial performance of the school and the effective use of the schools' resources.

This encompasses things such as developing and overseeing the School Development Plan alongside Miss Pickard, monitoring progress towards this, ensuring the wellbeing of staff and pupils, ensuring the premises and facilities are fit for purpose and express our ethos, and ensuring the schools budgets are used effectively and efficiently.

Fundamentally the role of the governing body is a strategic one linked to helping the federation deliver on its vision and promise, supporting children, staff and parents to be aligned to Inspire, Nurture, Believe and Achieve. It works together to provide independent oversight of the management and organisation of the school to maintain/improve the quality of education provided. At the beginning of the new term, we will come together as a board to set the vision and strategic direction for the next twelve months and we would like your views on what is going well within the federation and what strategically could make our federation even better. There are many plans outlined by Miss Pickard to further develop the creative curriculum, Sport and competitions, Music and Choir that have all been postponed due to Covid. Watch this space!

Operational matters (how the school / federation functions day-to-day) are not for the Governing Board to become involved in, but if you have any strategic ideas, or an area of school life that you would like to know more about, please send an email to me with your thoughts. Encourage your children to do the same [c.townend@gsfederation.com](mailto:c.townend@gsfederation.com) .

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to our Year 6 leavers and wish them the best of luck when they move onto their next stage of education. I hope our school has nurtured and inspired them to believe and achieve.

We look forward to sharing more information from the Governing Board in September and working with our stakeholders.

In the meantime, if you want to find out more about the Governing Board, please visit the section on the School Website.

Have a wonderful summer.

Kind regards,

*Cerys Townend*

Co-Chair of Governors