

Ashby Federation Annual Report to Parents 2021-22

The Governing Body for the academic year 2021-22 comprised:

Co-opted Governors: Anthony Williamson (Chair), Sarah Pollard (Vice-Chair), Mark Henderson, Glenn Turner, Andy Baker, Charlotte Orton

LA Governor: Jackie Burney-Childs

Elected Parent Governors: Robert Mackenzie-Wilson and Michael Boniface

Staff Governor: Rosie Gibson

Executive Head Teacher: Louise Brown

Clerk to Governors: Nicky Griffin

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are well and that your children are enjoying being back in school with many of the Covid restrictions now lifted and normality for the Ashby Federation returning for the benefit of our pupils, staff, parents, carers and other stakeholders.

Please find below our report for the outgoing academic year.

Our Core Functions as Governing Body of the Ashby Federation.

The three core functions, as detailed in Ofsted's inspection criteria are:

1. Setting the vision and strategic direction of the school:

In 2021/22 the Governors:

- Continued to oversee the revised Curriculum across the Ashby Federation. Notably this was by establishing a new 'Quality of Education' sub-committee that will meet regularly to oversee developments in this area.
- Regularly analysed and reviewed a comprehensive range of assessment data including Pupil Premium data, and feedback from monitoring sessions, learning walks and deep dives within the schools, feedback from the LA School Improvement Manager and from other external consultants, We have surveyed parents and stakeholders to identify areas of both strength and weakness within the schools to ensure that these always play an integral part in federation development plans.
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Head Teacher and ensured that these tightly align to school improvement priorities.
- Continued to act as critical friend to the Executive Head Teacher and the wider SLT in their leadership roles for the federation.
- Considered and approved new policies and reviewed and updated key existing policies. Governors have ensured that they have fulfilled their statutory duty by ensuring

that all relevant policies are in place, have been updated appropriately and are available on the school websites or via the school offices,

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- In addition to the annual survey, have sought out and acted upon the views of pupils and parents where possible through direct discussion and attendance at school events for parents/carers.

- Undertaken training to ensure compliance in statutory areas and improved personal skills to support the whole federation community and ensure that we are an effective federation governing body.

2. Creating robust accountability

In 2021/22 the Governors:

- Performed regular and detailed analysis of all school data to identify the schools' strengths and weaknesses.
- Benchmarked school performance against similar schools both locally and nationally.
- Robustly challenged the Head Teacher to ensure the schools' systems are robust and address areas of weakness. By improving their skills to support the whole federation community we have ensured that we are an effective federation governing body. This has enabled us to systematically question the Head Teacher on details of the schools' Development Plans and ensure that resources are directed effectively to areas of need within both schools.
- Monitored teaching and learning within the school. Visited the schools when possible to see how they operate and how all children, including vulnerable groups, learn best. We have scrutinised monitoring reports to gain an understanding of pupil data and tracking methods, pupil progress and attainment.
- Carried out comprehensive audits of the safeguarding provision and regularly inspected the schools' single central record. Continued to have a specific Safeguarding Governor in each school to ensure that all safeguarding responsibilities continue to be met.
- Continued to focus on the progress and attainment of our pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups to ensure that their outcomes are strong.
- Regularly received in-depth information from middle/senior leaders at Governors' meetings regarding Quality of Education, Behaviour and Safety, and Attainment. This has ensured that as Governors we have a clear and broad understanding of the context of our work and helped shape strategic questions and decisions.

3. Ensuring financial probity:

In 2021/22 the Governors:

- Ensured that the schools' budgets show that all spending decisions are made in line with the schools' priorities.
- Ensured that spending decisions for increased intervention support for individual children have had a positive outcome.
- Ensured that 'best value' principles have been adopted for all spending decisions.

- Ensured the pupil outcomes have been at the heart of all spending decisions and that strategic planning for the spending of other grants such as Sports Funding is robust.

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Governor attendance at meetings has been at a good level. Attendance data is published on the schools' websites.

Of course the academic year 2021/22 continued to be testing for the Ashby Federation schools as they dealt with the ongoing challenges of Covid 19, particularly the need to test and self-isolate. However, both school communities rose to the challenge to keep the schools operating safely and children continued to be educated to a high standard throughout.

The governing body met regularly throughout the year, reinstating face to face meetings as opposed to Zoom. The SLT's focus throughout the year was impressive as they moved both schools towards operating in a more 'normal' fashion. Notably, this allowed schools to take part in trips, visits and residential as follows:

Class Trips:

Reception: Jurassic Grill

Year 1 and 2: Visit to Higgins Art Gallery, Orienteering at Irchester Country Park, Hamerton Zoo visit to see animal groups and habitats.

Year 3 and 4: Verulamium for the Romans, Northampton Shoe Museum

Year 5 and 6: National Space Centre (Leicester)

Residential across both schools:

Year 3 and 4: Caldecotte Residential

Year 5 and 6: Cornwall Residential

Other notable school events were:

Global Weeks incorporating Water Week in which all of the children walked 6K, Quality Education in which the children focussed on understanding their right to an education, Life on Earth where children learned about endangered animals and then acted on the learning by adopting an animal per class.

Traditional annual events such as the annual school fetes, sports days and school performances also successfully returned, albeit in abnormally hot conditions!

We would like to extend our thanks yet again to the fantastic teams of staff operating across both federation schools, We'd also like to extend our thanks to the very supportive parent/carer communities at both schools.

Which brings us to staff! In 2021/22 staffing at both schools continued to be stable. The end of the year saw teaching assistant Claire Thompson leave YHPS to begin her teaching journey at Denton. Paula Walton, TA at Denton left for new challenges. Laura Law, TA at both sites, moved to work across the week at Denton. We wish them all well with their new endeavours.

The Ashby Federation Governing Body is committed to school improvement and to working effectively with the Executive Head, SLT, staff and pupils, together with the respective stakeholder communities.

The Governing Body's Plans for 2022/23

- To continue to act as a critical friend to our Executive Headteacher and the wider senior leadership team.
To further investigate synergies between the two schools and the benefits of further collaboration across and outside the Ashby Federation.
 - To better utilise resources and improve outcomes for our pupils.
 - To investigate new income streams.
- To continue to take part in regular monitoring alongside the Senior Leadership Team to better appreciate teaching and learning in the school and to continue to train to improve our own performance.
- To continue to monitor assessment systems.
 - To continue to ensure that we comply with all statutory duties.
- To continue to seek out and listen to the views of parents and children to improve the school experience for all.
 - To work to ensure the staff teams integrate and build strong working relationships with each other, parents, staff and governors across the Ashby Federation.
 - To invest in and develop staff members to prioritise their wellbeing and to ensure they are well placed to take on more roles and responsibilities for the benefit of themselves and the wider school
 - To reflect upon our governing body and have in place a succession plan to ensure that we have all the necessary expertise needed for future challenges.
 - To ensure that the schools' budgets are set and financially robust to support learning throughout the new year and is in strict accordance with Government policies and guidance.

Anthony Williamson/Jackie Burney-Childs

On behalf of the Ashby Federation

Autumn 2022