

Ashby Federation Annual Report to Parents 2018/19.

The Governing Body for the year 2018/19 comprised:

Co-opted Governors: Anthony Williamson (Chair), Jackie Burney-Childs (Vice Chair), Mark Henderson, Sarah Pollard, Glenn Turner, Olivia Skipper, Michelle Bourne, Andy Baker.

LA Governor: Arthur Brenton (until Spring 2019).

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 your children have settled well this new academic year.

The academic year 2018/19 marked the beginning of the formalised federation between Yardley Hastings Primary School and Denton Primary School, now known as the Ashby Federation.

The past year proved both busy and productive for both school communities and for the inaugural federation governing body.

The beginning of the year saw the new governing body take shape, harnessing the experience and expertise of governors from both schools who were keen to play a part on the new board. New parent governors were elected from a strong field of candidates across the federation. It has been very pleasing to see how keen parents have been to play a role and offer their expertise, time and energy to the strategic development of both schools as we move forward together.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention staff who moved on during the last academic year:

At Yardley Hastings Primary School:

Earlier in the year Sandra Costello retired. Sandra made a huge contribution to promoting art teaching in the school over many years in addition to being a highly supportive HLTA. We thank her for her contribution.

At the end of the academic year the school said goodbye to Charlotte Hobbs and Felicia Westwood.

Charlotte has been a wonderful HLTA in Class 1 for many years and more latterly has supported the nursery aged children who join the school. We thank her for all that she has done.

Felicia has been an HLTA in Classes 2 and 3 and is now moving on to new challenges. She has been a great supporter and asset on our residential trips, most notably in Cornwall last term. We will all miss her and wish her well.

Finally we said goodbye to one of our lunchtime supervisors, Charlotte Newton, as she moved on to a new venture. We thank her for commitment over the years.

We'd like to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Arthur Brenton, prior to stepping down earlier in the year. He was a strong Chair of Governors at Denton, and more recently Arthur was instrumental in the formulation of the federation plan and the consultation process that took place in 2017/18. His input was invaluable.

Our Core Functions as Governing Body:

The three **core functions**, as indicated in Ofsted's inspection criteria, remain as:

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

In 2018/19 the Governors:

- Reviewed and updated the vision, aims and values of both schools within the federation. This involved a Curriculum Breakfast at the beginning of 2019 with other stakeholders, scrutiny of questionnaires to understand parents' views on what they would like their children to learn and experience at school and also in depth discussion on the curriculum in the context of the new Ofsted inspection framework which is in place from September 2019.
- Analysed and reviewed a comprehensive range of assessment data, feedback from monitoring sessions and learning walks within the schools, from meetings with 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 important part in federation development plans.
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Head Teacher and ensured that these align to school improvement priorities.
- Continued to act as critical friend to the Executive Head Teacher in her leadership role.
- 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,
- In addition to the annual survey, have sought out and acted upon the views of pupils and parents through direct discussion, regular attendance at school events for parents/carers and visits to School Council meetings.
- Undertaken extensive ongoing training and attended relevant training courses throughout the year to improve their skills to support the whole federation community and ensure that we are an effective federation governing body.

2. Creating robust accountability

In 2018/19 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.
- Undertaken extensive ongoing training and attended relevant training courses throughout the year to improve their skills to support the whole federation community and ensure that we are an effective federation governing body. This has enabled us to actively and regularly 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 regularly to see how they operate and how all children, including vulnerable groups, learn best. We have taken part in learning walks and 'book scrutinies' 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 Curriculum, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour and Safety, and Attainment. This has ensured that as Governors we have a clear and broad understanding of the context of their work and helped shape strategic questions and decisions.
- Worked hard to ensure the new governing body structure is embedded and working well for the benefit of all pupils.

3. Ensuring financial probity:

In 2018/19 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.

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

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

Plans for 2019/20.

- To continue to act as critical friend to our Executive Headteacher and her 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 learning walks 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.

If you would like to discuss anything included in this report then please feel free to contact either the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors via the School Office. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Anthony Williamson/Jackie Burney-Childs

October 2019