

Ashby Federation Annual Report to Parents 2019/20.

The Governing Body for the year 2019/20 comprised:

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

LA Governor: Jackie Burney-Childs (Co-Chair).

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 are well and that your children are settling well back into school this new academic year.

Our Core Functions as Governing Body of the Ashby Federation.

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

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

In 2019/20 the Governors:

- Oversaw the relaunched Curriculum across the Ashby Federation. It was great for us to attend the Relaunch Evening and see so many parents there, enthused and excited by what the schools are offering their children.
- Analysed and reviewed a comprehensive range of assessment data including Pupil Premium data, and feedback from monitoring sessions and learning walks 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 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 where possible through direct discussion and attendance at school events for parents/carers.
- Undertaken ongoing training 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 2019/20 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. Improved their skills to support the whole federation community and ensure 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 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.

3. Ensuring financial probity:

In 2019/20 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.

Of course the academic year 2019/20 was unprecedented for the Ashby Federation schools and indeed for the whole country with the need to change operating practices from the Spring to keep all members of the school communities safe and to continue to offer an effective education to our children.

The first half of the year saw the governing body meet regularly at both schools and fulfil their monitoring role within the federation schools. The second half of the year saw all scheduled governor meetings continue virtually. We also met regularly via Zoom to receive Covid 19 updates and discuss school operational decisions with Louise Brown and her SLT. We were immensely impressed by their focus and determination during this time to supply the children with the best possible educational offering during lockdown. It is commendable that both schools safely managed to invite all year groups back into school for at least one week each before the end of last term. This was above and beyond what most schools nationwide managed to achieve during lockdown.

From a staff perspective, 2019/20 was a very stable year at both schools. The end of the year saw Lauren Young, Class 1 teacher at Denton, move on to a new challenge elsewhere. We would like to thank Lauren for the great contribution she made at Denton.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by Michelle Bourne as a federation governor prior to stepping down earlier in the year. Michelle played a key role in the upgrading of the mobile classrooms at Denton and we are grateful to her. Olivia Skipper is also stepping down as a governor due to other commitments. Her input, particularly in the area of safeguarding, has been invaluable over the last few years. We wish both Michelle and Olivia well.

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 2020/21.

- To continue to act as critical friend to our Executive Headteacher and her senior leadership team.
- To regularly scrutinise operating procedures in relation to Covid-19 at both schools to ensure they adhere to Department for Education guidelines.
- To ensure both schools endeavour to provide a robust and effective education to all children during the current pandemic.
- 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.

Anthony Williamson/Jackie Burney-Childs

September 2020