



Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary, Platts Heath and Ulcombe CE Primary Schools.

Chair of Governors Annual Report 2021-2022

This academic year the Governing Board has seen many changes and in 2023 we look forward to welcoming new Governors with their energetic and varied skills all set to support the strategic direction of the Federation. We also say goodbye and thank you to our Governors who have moved on and we have lost some valued knowledge and open and honest voices.

I am excited for the future of the Federation, all four Schools have a Good Ofsted and three following inspection this year! We were also extremely close to 'Outstanding' in at least two Schools and strive to achieve this too across the Federation.

I am also pleased to report we have achieved a certain amount of stability within our finances as all four Schools now have a positive budget thus allowing us more flexibility. This has enabled us to enlarge Kingswood School to five classes and to implement long term aspirations for building improvements, specifically major capital improvements at both Leeds and Broomfield, and Ulcombe.

We believe, the Federation has had a very successful year, our priorities for 2021/22 have been met, not least with our Ofsted results. We continue to evolve as we develop new ways to support and still challenge the Executive Headteacher and our four Heads of School, as they embed curriculums and continue to be extremely busy moving the childrens education forward, when hilst still recovering from some of the residual aftermath of Covid, in certain areas of learning. Government funding was put to good use on tutoring with adults already known to the children. We remain passionate about our inclusivity across all of our four small rural Federation Schools and the pupil numbers in all our schools continue to rise.

I am asked to remind you about Governance and the purpose of Governance and below is a brief insight into the role of Governors:-

- 1)** The purpose of governance is to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.
- 2)** All Governing Boards, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have three core functions:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.**

Our monitoring and evaluation is undertaken by questioning, examining and reporting the progress in any given area, by referring to the key targets and milestones, in the Federation and four Individual School Plans and reporting back at the next Governing Board Meeting where it can be discussed and challenged to ensure evidence of implementation and impact. We also monitor the implementation and impact of major policies across all the Schools, for example, Pupil Premium, Sports Funding and more recently 'Covid Catch Up' because as you may be aware there have been no statistics, or baselines for individual pupils, for staff to refer back to as a consequence of Covid.

Therefore, every child, in every one of our Schools, has been assessed and evaluated by our staff, so they have a baseline and a planned trajectory for achievement and progress which is constantly monitored. There are strong systems for teaching and assessments in place, across the curriculum assisted by the organisation and development of specialist subject leaders across the Federation. This leads to good learning, which has led to rapid improvements, particularly following the pandemic and surveys have shown staff too feel well supported. The systems and expectations are clear within the Federation and this helps to guide Governors to fully evaluate performance when monitoring.

Aspire Federation Governing Board Priorities 2022/2023

- * To support all Governors to embed and develop their knowledge and monitoring skills through mentoring and training.
- * To secure good Governing Board succession planning.
- * To maintain strong governance which is challenging to continue to drive the constant improvement of all aspects of education within the four Federation Schools
- * To engage more with parents /carers throughout the Federation, to use their views to guide and maximise our strategic leadership across the Federation and begin to established a regular Aspire Newsletter.
- * To ensure all Governors are fully engaged and trained with SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).
- * To recruit - two New Parent Governors, a Co-opted Governor and strive for two Foundation Governors to continue to raise the profile and skills of the Governing Board.

Virtual Governor Board Meetings have been very effective and we have developed different solutions for working around the monitoring issues thus still becoming fully informed of the Federation and individual School priorities. The opportunity to now be

more physically in Schools and move away from the vast majority of the virtual monitoring and with the added help from newly recruited Governors, I am confident as we start 2023 we will be near a full compliment to fully support monitoring and work as a team with all our Senior School Leaders.

All individual Governor monitoring, within our Circle Model of Governance, means we report directly to the next Board Meeting, on all school virtual/ physical meetings or visits which ensures every aspect of the quality of the education and outcomes involved in your childrens education are constantly under review.

There are certain areas that have an individual Governor as defined by the Department of Education such as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Health and Safety, Wellbeing, Mental Health & Resilience, and Finance which are always discussed at every Board Meeting.

We are delighted we now have Leeds and Broomfield as an accredited Nature School and our other three Aspire Schools now have the funding to complete this valuable training for all our children, although particularly our more vulnerable children. Nature is a big part of our ethos and to date we have raised money to set up two outdoor learning environments to support our children with their Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

Our Wellbeing, Mental Health & Resilience in all four Schools goes from strength to strength, where children's personal development is at the forefront of all we do. Supporting both our children and families leads our ethos and culture. Inclusivity and nurture are key, where we ensure every child's cultural capital, 21st Century Life skills and strategies to support good mental health is embedded daily. All our children's Social, Emotional and Mental Health are guided to grow and allows them to develop into well-rounded young adults, who can make informed decisions thus ensuring the very best future for themselves and their family.

We were particularly proud to have received the Kent Schools' Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Award across all our 4 Aspire Schools this year. We will strive to continue to develop this area so we ensure we always achieve the best outcomes for all our pupils, families and staff.

As Governors continue to monitor the impact and progress of all pupils, we thank all our Staff for everything they have done and continue to do for Aspire.

We have advertised and interviewed and hope to shortly announce several new Governors joining the Aspire Board. We will then produce updated photographs of the entire Board of Governors for notice boards in all the Schools so everyone is more familiar with us and the areas / roles we have as our monitoring priorities.

We are a very committed, busy proactive Governing Board, although always looking for new enthusiastic Governors. If you would like to discuss this interesting, voluntary role please do not hesitate to contact me and my details are below for your convenience

Please also note all the minutes of our Governing Board Meetings once agreed, are public documents and can be obtained on request from the School Offices. Details of Governors attendance at Meetings is also recorded and updated regularly on the Aspire Federation Website.

We look forward to the challenges and changes as the Aspire Federation continues to evolve and move forward as these often bring new exciting opportunities. The Governors

have a wide variety of transferable skills and experiences with one common interest ensuring the best possible education for every single individual child in our Federation Schools.

We welcome all comments and suggestions from parents, carers, staff, and other members of the school community who can always contact me directly by email or via any of the school offices.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all Governors past and present, our Executive Headteacher, four Heads of School, all our Staff and of course, our Clerk to the Governing Board.

On behalf of all the Governing Board I wish everyone
a Very Merry Christmas
and a
 Happy New Year

Warm wishes



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December 2022