

Connected

Termly Governor update

March 18



Hello, and welcome to the first edition of '**Connected**', your new termly Governor update. Each term I will update you on some of the key work we have been doing across the federation.

In this first edition I will give you an update on '**who your governors are**', '**what our role is**' and some work we are currently involved in.

I hope you find the updates useful, and would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions on news you would like me to update you on in future editions.

Kevin Unsworth – Chair of Governors

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As I am sure you will know by now, the OFSTED inspection at the Acorns went exceptionally well, with the school achieving an overall **Good** outcome.

As Governors we were extremely proud of how the children and staff conducted themselves during the inspection.

This was exemplified on the second day of the inspection. I loved hearing how Emily-Grace from Y1, whilst walking passed Mr Lenford said "Good morning, how are you today?", whilst Eva said "Bonjour"!

I have to say this level of engagement and politeness has been evident in the children since I joined the team last year, so it was great for the inspection team to see this first hand....well done Acorns! And it's not just The Acorns. During my recent visit to Whitley the children were extremely welcoming when I saw them in class and during the assembly I conducted.

I would also like to thank all the parents from The Acorns who were able to take the time to speak to the inspectors, complete the parent view survey or send a text. Again, the inspectors commented on the 'level of engagement' and the 'positive comments', so thank you.

It's great to see this consistent across the Federation, with the last Whitley Ofsted inspection commenting:

Parents who expressed their opinions through 'Parent View', Ofsted's online survey, and in conversation with me were very supportive of you and your team.

Mark Quinn Her Majesty's Inspector, February 2017

It really is a pleasure to support schools where there are children, parents and staff who all work together to ensure a positive, safe and enriched environment for the children.

Who are your Governors?



Hannah Mansfield



Jess Haigh



Emma Morgan-Lloyd

There are 11
Governors
who support
the federation



Crystal Rees



Hilary Berry



Di Buckley



Amanda Hatton



Martin Neild



Graeme Morrison



Lizzie Langton



Kevin Unsworth

There are different governor types, and governors have different roles and will sit on different committees. Here is how we are currently set up.

Name	Governor type	Role	Finance Committee	School Improvement Committee	Performance Management Committee
Amanda Hatton	Local Authority	Performance Committee Chair	✓		✓
Crystal Rees	Parent			✓	
Di Buckley	Co-Opted			✓	✓
Emma Morgan-Lloyd	Co-Opted			✓	
Graeme Morrison	Co-Opted			✓	
Hannah Mansfield	Head Teacher		✓	✓	✓
Hilary Berry	Co-Opted	Chair of Improvement Committee		✓	
Jess Haigh	Staff			✓	
Kevin Unsworth	Co-Opted	Chair of Governors	✓		✓
Lizzie Langton	Parent	Chair of Finance Committee	✓		
Martin Neild	Co-Opted	Vice Chair	✓		



**The Acorns Primary & Nursery and
Whitley Village Federated Schools**

Home Classes Information for Parents SEND About our School **Governors** Fun Zone

Check out the
website for more
information

What do governors do?



School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in **schools**. **Governors** appoint the head teacher and deputy headteacher.

It is **governors** who hold the main responsibility for finance in **schools**, and it is **governors** who work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of a governing board, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing board; decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing board.

The role of the governing board is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

The headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.

A governor does NOT:

1. write school policies
2. undertake audits of any sort – whether financial or health & safety - even if the governor has the relevant professional experience
3. spend much time with the pupils of the school – if you want to work directly with children, there are many other voluntary valuable roles within the school
4. fundraise – this is the role of the PTA – the governing board should consider income streams and the potential for income generation, but not carry out fundraising tasks
5. undertake classroom observations to make judgements on the quality of teaching – the governing board monitors the quality of teaching in the school by requiring data from the senior staff and from external sources
6. do the job of the school staff; if there is not enough capacity within the paid staff team to carry out the necessary tasks, the governing board need to consider and rectify this

What are we currently thinking about?

The Finance and School Improvement Committees meet once every term and the Performance Committee meets twice annually. We then come together as a full governing body once per term to gain updates from the different committees, gain an update from the Headteacher and ratify any decisions made by the individual committees

We will also discuss any ongoing educational requirements that may impact on the school, gaining updates from teaching and non-teaching staff to help us understand the impact and agree how the school should proceed.

Let me give you an update on 2 key activities we are working on at present:

SFVS (Schools Financial Value Standard)



‘The SFVS helps schools to manage their finances and to provide assurance to the local authority that they have secure financial management in place.’

So, each school is given money based on the number of children on roll, and we also get money for children who may need additional support or to help with sports education.

Both our schools get their own funds to use on the children within the separate schools.

As governors we discuss how the money is being used every term during our Finance and Full Governors meetings. However, every year we must also provide a summary to the council to highlight how the monies are being spent and that we can evidence the correct use of the different funds.

Working with the Business Manager, Mrs Catherall, we must complete the ‘SFVS’ template and submit to the Council to confirm we have the correct ‘Financial Standards’ in the schools.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The logo for EUGDPR.org, featuring the text 'EUGDPR.org' in white on a blue rectangular background.

EUGDPR.org

The aim of the GDPR is to protect all EU citizens from privacy and data breaches in an increasingly data-driven world that is vastly different from the time in which the 1995 directive was established.

In May this year there are changes to how we can store and record data.

As governors we are receiving updates from Mrs Catherall on how this may impact the schools and to understand what changes may be required to our policies, procedures and systems.

We can then work with the schools to ensure these are implemented in time for the new regulations.

What is our vision?



The Acorns Primary & Nursery and Whitley Village Federated School The Governing Body Purpose

Purpose

- To provide the structure to enable the best education for all of our children
- To provide support, challenge and guidance Values

Values

We will:

- Respect Everyone
- Always consider “How does this affect the children?”
- Have a “positive impact”



If you would like to discuss any details about the work we do then please don't hesitate to drop me a line on the email address below, or leave a message for me in the school office

Best wishes

Kevin Unsworth – Chair of Governors



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