



## The Ashby Federation



### Ashby Federation Annual Report to Parents 2022-23

**The Governing Body for the academic year 2022-23 comprised:**

**Co-opted Governors: Anthony Williamson (Chair), Sarah Pollard (Vice-Chair), Glenn Turner, Andy Baker, Michael Boniface and Charlie Morgan**

**LA Governor: Jackie Burney-Childs**

**Elected Parent Governors: Amma Ainsley and Amelia Parrish**

**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 all that school life has to offer for the new academic year 2023 -24. As ever, the Ashby Federation's ongoing aim is to work for the positive educational outcomes of our pupils.

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 2022/23 the Governors:

- Continued to oversee the revised Curriculum across the Ashby Federation. This was achieved by regularly receiving updates from across the curriculum at governor meetings and also making visits to Yardley Hastings Primary School and Denton Primary School.
- 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,
- 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 that pupil outcomes have been at the heart of all spending decisions and that strategic planning for the spending of other grants such as Pupil Premium is robust.

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

The academic year 2022/23 proved to be very successful for both schools in the Ashby Federation with the challenges of Covid 19 largely in the past, the chance to get back to normality being much welcomed and opportunities to maximise our curriculum offering being taken.

Notable events during the academic year were:

Class Trips:

Reception: Trip to Woburn Safari Park  
 Year 1 and 2: Trip to London Transport Museum  
 Year 3 and 4: Residential to Caldecotte  
 Year 5 and 6: Residential to St Ives

Other notable school events were:

Federation Days –

EYFS - Little City  
 Year 1 and 2 - Great Fire of London Workshop  
 Year 3 and 4 - Explorerdome  
 Year 5 and 6 - Mayan Workshop  
 Year 5 and 6 - Art Days  
 EYFS visits from people who help us.  
 e-safety sessions with WNC's Online Safety and Wellbeing Officer  
 Class Cafes

Global Weeks:

Gender Equality  
 Climate Change  
 Zero Hunger - including sponsored run and activity competition

Sports:

Both schools achieved platinum School Games status  
 Bikeability training for Key Stage 2  
 Traditional annual events such as the annual school fetes, sports days and school performances also took place at both schools.

The dedicated teams of fantastic staff operating across both federation schools are integral to making the events happen and we extend our thanks to them. We would also like to extend our thanks to the ever supportive parent/carers communities at both schools.

Which brings us to staff! In 2022/23 staffing at both schools remained very stable. We would like to pass on our congratulations to Claire Thompson for achieving QTS. She now continues as a teacher at Denton.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing vice chair, Sarah Pollard, who stepped down from the governing body at the end of the academic year to return to full time work. Sarah had been a hugely proactive governor and integral member of the working party that tools us through federation. We are hugely indebted to her and wish her well in the future.

The Ashby Federation Governing Body continues its commitment 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 2023/24**

- 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 2023