

The Governing Body for the academic year 2023-24 comprised:

Co-opted Governors: Anthony Williamson (Chair)
Michael Boniface (Vice-Chair),
Andy Baker
Charlie Morgan
Glenn Turner
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 this message finds you well and that your children are enjoying all the opportunities that school life offers them in the 2024-2025 academic year. As always, the Ashby Federation remains committed to delivering positive outcomes for all our pupils.

Please find below our report for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Our Core Functions as the Governing Body of the Ashby Federation

The three core functions of the Governing Body, as outlined in Ofsted's inspection criteria, are:

1. Setting the Vision and Strategic Direction of the School

In 2023/2024, the Governors continued overseeing the revised curriculum across the Ashby Federation, with regular updates from curriculum leaders at governor meetings and visits to both Yardley Hastings Primary School and Denton Primary School.

- Regularly analysing a comprehensive range of assessment data, including Pupil Premium data, and engaged with feedback from monitoring sessions, learning walks, and deep dives within the schools.
- Set, reviewed, and monitored performance targets for the Headteacher, ensuring alignment with school improvement priorities.
- Maintained a role as critical friends to the Executive Headteacher and the wider Senior Leadership Team (SLT), providing support and challenge in their leadership of the federation.
- Considered and approved new policies while reviewing and updating existing key policies. Governors ensured statutory duties were met, with all relevant policies being updated and made accessible on the school websites or through the school offices.
- Continued to seek and act upon the views of pupils and parents, wherever possible, through direct discussions and attendance at school events.

- Undertook training to remain compliant with statutory requirements and enhance our personal skills, ensuring we are an effective governing body.

2. Creating Robust Accountability

In 2023/2024, the Governors:

- Conducted regular, detailed analyses of school data to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Benchmarked school performance against similar schools locally and nationally.
- Professionally challenged the Executive Headteacher to ensure that the schools' systems were effective and that areas of weakness were addressed. We ensured that resources were directed effectively to areas of need, based on our in-depth understanding of the schools' development plans.
- Monitored teaching and learning closely, visiting the schools when possible to observe classroom operations and how different pupil groups, including vulnerable children, were supported. We scrutinised monitoring reports to gain a clear understanding of pupil progress, attainment, and data tracking methods.
- Conducted comprehensive audits of safeguarding provisions and inspected the schools' single central record. Safeguarding responsibilities continued to be met with a specific Safeguarding Governor across the federation.
- Focused on the progress and attainment of pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups, ensuring their outcomes were a priority.
- Received detailed reports from Senior Leaders at governors' meetings on quality of education, behaviour, safety, and attainment, ensuring a broad and clear understanding of the schools' contexts.

3. Ensuring Financial Probity

In 2023/2024, the Governors:

- Ensured the schools' budgets aligned with the priorities identified in the development plans.
- Monitored spending decisions closely, ensuring that investments in intervention support for individual pupils had positive outcomes.
- Ensured that 'best value' principles were followed in all spending decisions.
- Prioritised pupil outcomes in all financial decisions, ensuring strategic planning for the spending of grants such as Pupil Premium was robust.

Governor attendance at meetings has remained strong, with attendance data available on the schools' websites.

Highlights of the 2023/2024 Academic Year

The 2023/2024 academic year was a successful one for both schools in the Ashby Federation.

In November 2023 Yardley Hastings were visited by OFSTED who, we are delighted to announce, graded the school Outstanding in all areas.

Across the federation children have had the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of school trips linking to their class topics. Residential trips have also been facilitated for children in years 3-6. Federation days have been a great opportunity to bring learning to life and have enabled children from both schools to engage with each other and broaden their learning. Across the Federation we have also delivered Global Weeks as part of our Global Curriculum; this year focussing on traditional events, such as the school fetes, sports days, and school performances, were also held at both schools.

These events were made possible by the dedication of our staff teams, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them. We would also like to express our gratitude to the supportive parent and carer communities at both schools.

Staffing

Staffing at both schools has seen some changes in 2023/2024 with the retirement of Louise Brown – Executive Headteacher. The Governing Body would like to extend, on behalf of the community of staff, parents and children of the federation our thanks to Mrs Brown for her unwavering commitment in driving the Federation forward. The governing body are pleased to confirm that Rosie Gibson (Deputy Headteacher and SENDCO at Denton) and Andy Baker (Deputy Headteacher at Yardley) have been successful in securing positions as Acting Headteachers in their respective schools for the 24/25 academic year.

We also take this opportunity to thank Jackie Burney-Childs, our outgoing LA Governor, for her significant contributions to the governing body.

The Ashby Federation Governing Body's Plans for 2024/2025

- Continue to provide critical support and challenge to the Acting Heads of School and the wider Senior Leadership Team.
- To secure a permanent Senior Leadership Team Structure for both schools through recruitment processes.
- Investigate further synergies between the two schools and explore opportunities for greater collaboration within and outside the Ashby Federation.
- Maximise resources to enhance pupil outcomes.
- Explore new income streams to support federation growth.
- Continue regular monitoring alongside the Senior Leadership Team to enhance our understanding of teaching and learning, and pursue professional development to improve our performance.
- Strengthen our assessment systems.
- Maintain compliance with all statutory duties.
- Actively seek feedback from parents and pupils to improve the school experience for all.
- Foster strong working relationships among staff teams, governors, and parents to ensure the federation's success.
- Prioritise staff wellbeing and invest in their professional development, enabling them to take on greater roles and responsibilities.
- Reflect on the governance structure and implement a succession plan to ensure future readiness.

- Ensure that the schools' budgets are strategically set and financially robust to support learning, in line with government policies and guidance.

Kind regards,

The Governing Body of The Ashby Federation