

# Otter Valley Federation (OVF) Governance statement 2018-19

## **Our core strategic functions:**

- Ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools
- Holding the Exec Head Teacher and Heads of School to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils and for the performance management of the staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure that the money is well spent.

## **Governance arrangements**

Governors are responsible for and continue to develop their portfolio lead roles. Governors hold a much greater strategic role in development of next year's school development plan. The current board and a brief explanation of roles are listed in the table below.

Kevin Brandom	Chair of Governors – Foundation Governor
John Sherwood	Vice Chair of Governors – Foundation Governor. – Lead for SEND & Inclusion
Danny Beaven	Ex Officio – Foundation Governor – Co-Lead for Parents and Christian Communities
Mark Humphries	Foundation Governor – Lead for Safeguarding
Malcolm Armstrong	Foundation Governor – Lead for Curriculum
Sarah Walls	Foundation Governor
Matt Sullivan	Foundation Governor – Co-Lead for Parents and Christian Communities
Maureen Mylne	Foundation Governor – Outgoing Lead for Staffing
Daphne Sherwood	Foundation Governor – Lead for Staffing
Oliver Williams	Local Authority Governor – Lead for Premises and Health & Safety
Andy Welch	Parent Governor – Lead for Finance
Jen Metcalf	Parent Governor – Lead for School improvement
Colin Butler	Executive Head Teacher
Michael Tuckett	Staff Governor
Amanda Parsons	Co-opted Governor

We will have a Foundation Governor vacancy as we bid farewell to Malcolm Armstrong and Mo Mylne and thank them for all their work on behalf of both schools. We are hopeful that the Mission Community will help identify a further replacement Foundation Governor.

Governor attendance is reported along with all meeting minutes on the OVF website.

## **Effectiveness and impact**

### ***Christian Distinctiveness***

As church schools, staff from both schools have continued to share best practice in maintaining the Understanding Christianity material as part of the RE curriculum. The OVF Vision of Believing and Achieving to be the Best that you can Be, inspired by John 10:10, was reviewed and refreshed this year ensuring we can articulate how our two schools' values relate to this wider vision.

Feniton were judged as "Excellent" in their SIAM inspection in the spring term. An achievement that reflects dedication that both schools put into embedding Christian values

throughout the curriculum and school life.

Further emphasis has been put on the development of courageous advocacy this year. Typified by the introduction and success of the Year 6 students engaging in the Devon Civic award assessment. With the majority of our Year 6 students engaging passionately with the scheme and raising money for worthy causes close to their hearts.

### ***Finance and budgets***

The board have been able to set a 3-year budget – we have highlighted to parents the impact of central funding decision on the ability of the governors to invest in the school in this financially austere time. Mr Butler has attended a local heads meeting with Neil Parish MP to attempt to get the subject of school funding on the government agenda. Our thanks go to the federations business manager Ms Russell, Mr Butler and our finance governor Mr Welch whose hard work and financial management has ensured that our budget has been able to protect teaching time as much as possible, which has been a priority of the board.

### ***Safeguarding***

Safeguarding at our schools remains strong and continuous action plans are maintained and reviewed regularly by the Safeguarding Lead Governor. Appropriate training has been provided for staff and also made available to volunteers including the governors.

### ***GDPR***

The schools' GDPR requirements are being overseen by an appointed Data protection officer and monitoring is overseen by the Parents and Christian Communities portfolio governor.

### ***Relocation of Tipton School***

Progress on the Tipton relocation has been slow. A site for the new school has been identified and endorsed by the adoption of the Ottery and West Hill Neighbourhood Plan but there continues to be a shortfall in funding needed for the move to go ahead. We are hopeful that the coming year will bring some movement towards resolving the impasse.

### ***Collaboration***

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Governing Board have continued to promote the sharing of the expertise of our teachers across the Federation in a programme of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to the benefit of both schools.

Our partnership with St Martin's Cranbrook, Withycombe Raleigh has again provided support staff in their CPD and moderating exercises that have helped reassure us that our high standards are being maintained. Further assessment of the impact of the East Devon Church Schools Group will be published next Autumn.

### ***Maintaining Success***

Improved math's confidence has been a priority this year and pre-teaching with a focus on SEND pupils has boosted progress for all pupils, school data suggests that good progress is being made in this area. In addition to ensuring our SEND pupils achieve the best they can, emphasis has also been on the able, gifted and talented pupils being able to achieve greater depth in their attainment.

Our schools provide a broad curriculum which is designed to give all pupils the knowledge, skills and outlook they need to succeed, and this will continue to be a focus for governance in 2019-20.

**Conclusion**

The Governing Board had a busy and productive year. We intend to build on the changes and developments which we have addressed in 2018-19, work to ensure that our decisions in key areas make a positive difference and that we deliver high quality governance across the Board.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the community by joining our team of Governors and would like to know more about the work of the Board please contact the Chair of Governors via the office at either school.

Kevin Brandom, Chair of Governors