

Otter Valley Federation (OVF) Governance statement 2017-18

Our core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools
- Holding the Head Teacher 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.

Our schools as church schools, linked in Federation, and wider collaboration

Christian Distinctiveness

As church schools, staff from both schools have been sharing best practice monitoring the implementation of Understanding Christianity our adopted material as part of the RE curriculum. Governors have attended collective worship and delight in sharing of the pupils' experiences and success in activities in and away from school.

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.

Building on our experience of collaboration within the Federation and the local learning community a formal collaborative partnership has been established between St Martin's Cranbrook, Withycombe Raleigh and the OVF schools. The benefits of this collaboration have been highlighted in our recent communication to parents at the beginning of this term.

Governance arrangements, membership, structure and attendance

This year, in a move to be more efficient with governor time, we have moved to a portfolio structure, with each governor meeting with staff and senior leaders to report to the full governing board meeting on actions taken and recommendations for approval where appropriate, this has enabled governors to develop a greater strategic role and will further inform the focus of the school development plan. The current board and 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
Vacant	Ex Officio – Foundation Governor
Mark Humphries	Foundation Governor – Lead for Safeguarding
Malcolm Armstrong	Foundation Governor – Lead for Curriculum
Danny Beaven	Foundation Governor – Co-Lead for Parents and Christian Communities
Matt Sullivan	Foundation Governor – Co-Lead for Parents and Christian Communities
Maureen Mylne	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

This year has been challenging in that we have been running with the ex-officio post vacant all year. We are hopeful that the new incumbent at Fention Parish church will be taking on the role from September.

We will be saying farewell to Mo Mylne at the end of this year and thank her for all her work on behalf of both schools. This does mean that we will be seeking a new foundation governor.

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

Effectiveness and impact

Maintaining success

The Board works with the schools to promote and monitor the improvement of pupil's learning skills and outcomes. There is a collaborative approach by staff to CPD (Continuous Professional Development) which supports progress in key aspects such as:

A focus on independent learning skills.

The provision of a well resourced, broad, balanced, stimulating and challenging curriculum.

The delivery of our equality objectives for disadvantaged pupils and target groups, including More able pupils as identified in the SDPs (School Development Plans).

The focus on school improvement is evidenced by secure tracking of the progress of each pupil, benchmarking against other schools, and external auditing – the Quality Mark (for English and Maths) has been renewed at both schools, and the federation has built on Tipton's success with a Gold award in Science Mark last year with Feniton submitting for and achieving a Silver in the Science Mark. Both Schools have also achieved Gold award in Active Mark, further evidencing the Federations commitment to a broad and enriched curriculum.

Senior leaders have attended focused training on the effective use of teaching assistants (TAs), strengthening our strategic use of TAs to best serve the needs of all our pupils and help them be the best that they can be. This was highlighted as an aspect of good practice observed by the Quality Mark assessor.

Finance and budgets

The board have been able to set a 3-year balanced budget – in this financially austere time, this is a testament to the financial management of the federations business manager with support from Mr Butler and Mr Welsh. This budget has been able to protect teaching time which has been a priority of the board.

Health and Safety Audit

Both schools have recently undergone their health and safety audit, the schools have been praised for their provision.

Safeguarding

The County Safeguarding Audit was completed in December. 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.

Investment is ongoing in premises to promote safeguarding and security, which is why some building works were carried out at Feniton during the summer holidays.

GDPR

The schools have an action plan to ensure that we meet all our GDPR requirements; This will be overseen by an appointed Data protection officer and monitoring will be 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.

Conclusion

The Governing Board had a busy and productive year. We intend to build on the changes and developments which we have addressed in 2017-18, 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