



Governor News

Wirksworth Federation of Infant Schools – 25th July 2016



The Board of Governors

Tricia Rice - Chair; co-opted governor; member Resource and Learning & Teaching Committees

Nicky Crompton - Vice-chair and Chair of Learning & Teaching Committee; co-opted governor

Sally Pearson - Parent governor Wirksworth Church of England Infant School and Chair of Resource Committee

Hanna Link - Parent governor Wirksworth Infant School; member Resource Committee

Sue Todd - Foundation governor; member Learning & Teaching Committee

Lucy Williams-Hunter - Foundation governor; member Learning & Teaching Committee

John Hampton - Co-opted governor; member Resource Committee

Sarah Waller - Staff governor; member Learning & Teaching Committee

Jo Poyser - Headteacher; member Resource and Learning & Teaching Committees

Betty Brown is clerk to the governing body

We currently have 2 co-opted governor vacancies. Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance of the school. Please get in touch if you think you would like to get involved in our work with the schools.

Federation Vision

Earlier in the year we invited you to contribute to our vision for the Federation. We combined your words with those of the staff and children and have tried to reflect what is important to everyone.

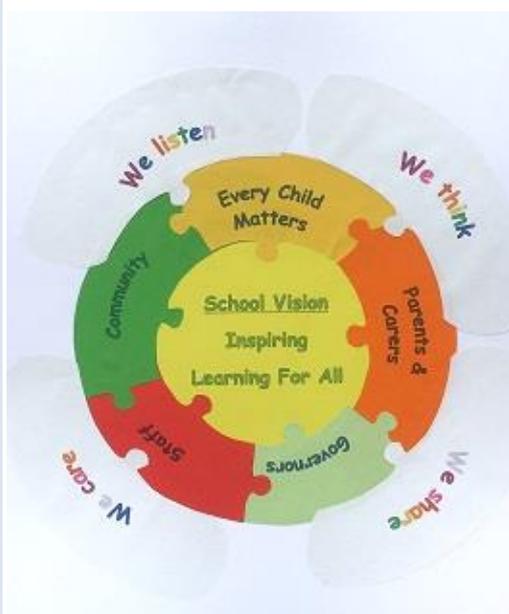
Something that was important to many of those who commented was that our schools nurtured each child as an individual, enabling children to reach their potential and inspiring them to love learning.

Another common theme was the importance of our whole school community and the relationship between our schools and the wider community in Wirksworth.

Both the above themes are reflected in our vision 'Inspiring learning for all' illustrated below, with all parts of our school community coming together around it with our guiding principles 'we listen, we think, we share, we care' underpinning how we work with each other.

Thank you to all who commented on this vision at the Seaside Sculpture Trail event recently. We will make clear what this means for our schools, the children and how we will work and will share this with you in the autumn.

In the meantime, if you would like to comment please don't hesitate to drop a note into either school office, either during the summer or at the start of the new school year.



Our proposed vision, borrowing the schools jigsaw emblem to show how everybody has a role in *Inspiring Learning for All*



Inviting 'tickled pink' or 'green for growth' comments on the vision at the Seaside Sculpture Trail in July.

Governors in school

Aside from our regular meetings governors have been busy visiting school this term.

Our Foundation Governors, Sue Todd and Lucy Hunter, came in to observe an RE lesson. Thank you to Mrs Wanford and the children for making us welcome.

This term's Eco-Council got their chance to work with Trish Rice to learn about the Natural Environment.

Trish Rice & Nicky Crompton spent a morning with Mrs Poyser and the Local Authority advisor undertaking a summer review for both schools.

You may have spotted our Clerk to the Governors, Betty Brown, at school events such as the Queens Birthday Celebrations and the Summer Sculpture Trail.

Governor changes

During the school year both Dave Wheal (co-opted governor) and Penny Findon (Local Authority governor) left the board of governors. We would like to thank them for their contribution to our work.

John Hampton, a parent of a child at the Federation, recently joined us as a co-opted governor to our Resources Committee and has attended his first two meetings. We are also waiting for the Local Authority to formally nominate a governor but expect to have a new member in place by the start of the new school year.

Joint meeting with governors from Wirksworth Junior School

In June, the Federation governors had a joint meeting with governors from Wirksworth Junior School (WJS) to explore how we can work more closely together. Almost all the children from the Federation transition to WJS and close working makes great sense for our schools and community. Our aim is to take this beyond what already happens to support the transition of year 2 children and at the meeting governors looked at other things we could do that would benefit the children at both schools. We will set up a joint working group in September to make sure we put our ideas into practice.

Review of governor performance and attendance

Each year we develop a work plan for governors, based on key tasks in the strategic development plan, to ensure that we are effective and can keep track of how we are doing each time we meet. At our final meeting of the year on 14th July we reviewed our performance against this plan and are confident that we have delivered fully on our most important goals for the year. A small number of tasks will carry over to the next school year for completion.

This year we had seven scheduled meetings of the full governing board, three Learning & Teaching Committee and four Resource Committee meetings. On average, attendance at meetings of the full governing board was 77% and at committees (each a smaller subset of governors) it was 88%.

Attendance at meetings is an important part of being a volunteer governor because it is there that we make decisions - the more governor voices and views that are heard the more robust those decisions will be. We have, therefore, agreed to work towards an 80% attendance target as individuals for the next academic year, accepting that illness, work or family commitments may result in missing one or two meetings.

Thank you!

As we are at the end of our school year governors would like to say a very big thank you Mrs Poyser and all her staff at the Federation who have worked so hard to make this an enjoyable, successful and memorable year for all the children. Thank you also to parents and carers for your continued support of our schools.

A special thank you as well to all our year 2 children who have contributed so much while they have been at our schools - we wish them all well as they continue into junior school.

Finally, we wish you all and the children a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.