

## Governor's Annual Report 2019

The 2018/19 academic year has been very successful for both of the schools within the Ladysmith Federation as a result of the level of effort and commitment given by everyone concerned. I would especially like to offer thanks to the numerous volunteers who support both of the schools in a huge variety of roles. Their involvement makes a huge difference to the quality of the educational experience that the children have during their time at the schools. Well done and please keep up the good work.

Both schools have benefited from their involvement with the River Exe Learning Partnership (RELP). This is a group of similar schools within the local area that have a similar ethos, who work together to share good practice and to ensure continuing improvement in the education that they provide. Both schools have participated in the RELP continuous development program and have been subject to peer review which has been very positive and shown that both schools are continuing to improve.

### Ladysmith Infant School

The Opal Play Program in the Infant School has recently been reviewed and has received a Gold award. Congratulations to everyone who has had a hand in developing and delivering this program. Platinum award next!! The school has provided many enrichment activities including yoga, space dome and author and artist visits. These could not have happened without the support of Children, Parents and Teachers Together (CPTT) who's involvement and fundraising activities make a huge difference to both schools. Many thanks to everyone involved and keep up the good work. The Forest School continues and proves very popular with all of the children who experience it. Tapestry, which is a system where teachers and parents can upload photographs and share information, is continuing to prove useful in the Nursery and Reception classes and use of the system is growing. The Help Us Grow Green (HUGG) project has received funding which will see changes made to the outside environment over the next few months. Children from years One and Four have been involved in the Sing for Joy event at the Great Hall of Exeter University.

### Ladysmith Junior School

The Junior School was subject to an inspection by Ofsted in November and came out of it described as a Good School/Good Provider. This is what we would have hoped and expected but it is always worrying to go through an inspection. Many congratulations to everyone. There has been continued development of the curriculum throughout the year in order to provide a broad and balanced education that values all subjects. A rich diet of off-site activities has also been provided including two residential for years Four and Six, a sleep-over in school for year Five and year Three went to the Principality of Wales. There has been a continuation of the Grow Project and further development of the school grounds in order to provide an enriched environment for children to play and learn in. This has also seen the arrival of chickens in recent weeks. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Governors are also required to ensure that their school have adhered to current Equal Opportunities legislation. Both schools operate on a fully inclusive equal opportunity basis and this is built into the policies and procedures that governors expect the schools to operate by. It is our responsibility to ensure that every child, irrespective of their needs, has the same opportunity to attain their full potential. Governors receive reports from the SENDcos of both schools regarding the needs of children that have been identified, the interventions that have taken place during the academic year and the success of those interventions. We are informed of staff allocated to support children and the training that is organised for staff in order that those interactions can be as successful as possible. The schools also provide support and advice to parents.

Governors are also volunteers who are working to support the schools and to ensure that they maintain the quality of provision that is expected for the children they educate. We are currently working towards developing new strategic goals for the Federation. If you are interested in learning more about this please visit the Governor section of the website at <http://www.ladysmithfederation.net/web/governors/216261> . If you, or anyone you may know, are interested in becoming a governor and helping to support your schools please do get in touch to discuss this. I can be contacted on [igibson@ladysmithfederation.net](mailto:igibson@ladysmithfederation.net) .

In summary 2018/19 has been a very good year for both schools and the governors are extremely grateful to all of the staff for the hard work that they have put in to make this year successful. This task has not been getting any easier over the last few years because of budgetary pressures that have been put on Local Authorities and schools; but staff keep stepping up to ensure that all of the children get the opportunities that they require.

As usual I would wish the children good luck when they move to their new classes or schools in September.

Ian Gibson