

Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our first Governor Newsletter. The Federation of Follifoot & Spofforth CE Primary schools formally began on Thursday 15th October. The new Governing Body (FGB) has now been formed and information on its membership is below. Governors can be contacted through either school office either by email or by letter addressed to the Chair of the Governing Body.

admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Name of Governor	Type of Governor
Mr David Harrington	Parent Governor & Chair Elected by parents of Spofforth School
Mr Simon Cox	Co-opted Governor & Vice Chair Appointed by Governing Body
Mr Paul Griffiths	Headteacher Appointed by Governing Body
Mrs Samantha Corderoy	Foundation Governor Appointed by the Diocese
Mr Matthew Duncombe	Co-opted Governor Appointed by Governing Body
Mr Rory Ffoulkes	Parent Governor Elected by Parents of Follifoot School
Mrs Sue Foster	Local Authority Governor Appointed by the LA
Mr Simon McInerney	Co-opted Governor Appointed by Governing Body
Mrs Lizzy Stansfield	Staff Governor Elected by staff
Mr Chris Winspear	Foundation Governor Appointed by the Diocese

Governors meet regularly and part of the duties of Governors is to carry out organised visits to both schools to monitor and evaluate various aspects of the schools. Governor visits/duties have included but are not limited to:

- Interview panel for new teaching staff.
- Assessing the schools ICT provision and the specialist teaching that takes place.
- Observing the Year 6 SATs together with evaluating the administration of these tests.
- Observation of the curriculum and learning foundations in practice.
- School choir performance at the Royal Hall, Harrogate
- Opening of the new school playground showcasing how a range of sporting opportunities (in addition to "traditional" sports) can help open up an active life-style to a larger part of the pupil population.
- Evaluating the quality and impact of collective worship on the impact of the Christian ethos of both schools.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of financial management and reporting procedures.
- Managing the performance of the Headteacher
- Attending sharing assemblies and church services
- Supporting SIAMS Inspection

A programme of visits will continue this year and these will be detailed in future newsletters.

We are now pleased to be able to confirm our Federation's Guiding Principles which have been published on both our websites.

'A federation is defined in law as two or more maintained schools operating under the governance of a single governing body.' 'The creation of a federation is not just about structural change. It is also about a different mind-set where governors and school leaders share a commitment to improving the outcomes and chances for all children across the federation.'

NCTL Governance of Federation Document

Federation Guiding Principles –

1. The needs of all the children, regardless of which school they attend, come first over all other priorities.
2. The staff team is the Federation's most valuable resource. We must look after them and support them using the Federation effectively to retain and where necessary recruit the highest quality staff.
3. The Federation strives to create outstanding provision for children in our localities and the whole community.
4. Pupils' personal development and wellbeing are valued as highly as their academic progress.
5. The Federation understands the presence of a school in each village is central to village and community life. We value the support provided by the community and work hard to ensure we contribute effectively to village life.
6. We want to retain the benefits of smaller schools whilst being able to work as efficiently and effectively as larger schools.
7. Positive relationships with parents are essential to the schools and contribute to the work they do.
8. Consultation regarding proposed change will always be transparent and include all those involved with school life; pupils, parents, staff, governors the Local Authority and wider community.
9. The Federation recognises the direct link between pupil numbers and funding. It accepts that this will pose challenges that must be faced. We will learn from others in similar situations, work creatively, taking considered risks and embracing change.
10. The federation must make best possible use of finances to do the very best for the children.