



# Ox Close Federation Governor Newsletter

July 2023 Edition

## Who Are We?

Pam Sneath – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Ox Close Federation and Looked After Children Lead

Dave Stone – Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Ox Close Federation and Chair of Finance and Resources

Debra Swinburn – Co-opted Governor and Chair of Leadership and Management

Cllr Liz Maddison – Local Authority Governor and Safeguarding Lead

Wendy Hall – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Committee and SEND Lead

Daniel Harrison – Executive Headteacher

Steven Bowen – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Quality of Education and Health and Safety Lead

Nicola Milne - Co-opted Governor

Anna Bowden – Deputy Executive Headteacher and Staff Governor

Sarah Aungiers—Parent Governor

Liam Clough—Parent Governor

Paul Wilson - Co-opted Governor

Jayne Phillips—Assistant Executive Headteacher and Associate Governor

Hannah Shepherd - Associate Governor

Michelle Bowman - Associate Governor

Tracey Jackson - Associate Governor

## New Build

Our new build is progressing really well and the Esh Group have stated that they are on track and we are expecting the building to be erected and water tight by the end of November 2023.

## Community

This term, staff and Governors have attended a number of events including Spennymoor Gala, to promote our new school and answer any questions that local residents had. In addition, we have held Open Events within the Federation and we will be continuing these next year.

## Congratulations to Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Bowman

To meet the needs of our growing school, the Governors have made two new Assistant Executive Headteacher appointments to start from September. Mrs Shepherd will lead Primary Curriculum and Pastoral and Mrs Bowman will lead Personal Development including transition. We wish them every success in their new roles.

## Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our Governor Survey. This helps to inform us on your views and where we can work with the Federation to improve further. It was pleasing to see that 100% of parents and carers believed that their child felt safe in Nursery and School.

Over 98% agree that their child knows who to speak to if they are upset and unhappy and that the Federation has a positive and respectful culture. In addition, 95% know who to approach in school if they have queries and concerns and over 86% feel that Federation communication is effective and timely which is an improving situation which we will continue to work on next year.

We specifically asked you about our first Ox Fest and overall the majority of comments were extremely supportive and positive. Some suggestions have been made and we will consider them when planning next year's event.

We also wanted your feedback on opportunities to attend Nursery/School events. From 43 written responses, the results were:

- 27 responses were supportive of the event and would not want anything to change.
- Further work needed on managing the expectations of younger children when family members are unable to attend due to work commitments (2 responses).
- Less events (1 response).
- Move some events where possible to mid afternoon/evening to allow some working parents the chance to attend more (5 responses).
- More events in Key Stage Two (4 responses).
- Better staggering of events across the term (2 responses).
- Better communication of forthcoming events (2 responses).

In regard to additional comments, from the 42 responses we had 4 constructive suggestions which we will consider for the new year.

## Happy Retirement Mrs Smart!

After 24 magnificent years, Mrs Smart is retiring! We wish her well and thank her for her years of hard work, dedication and commitment to Ox Close.

## Good Luck to our Leavers

We would like to wish all children who are leaving us to start their next chapter the very best of luck and continue to be the best that they can be.

## Happy Summer!

Finally, we would like to thank the children, parents, carers and staff for their hard work, support and dedication and we wish you all a safe, healthy and happy holiday.



## What do the Governors do?

We have three core functions which are:

- Giving the school a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

## Federation Improvement Priorities

Leaders and Governors have been busy analysing data, surveys and monitoring teaching and learning in school to identify the priorities for the next academic year.

Here is a summary of what we will be working on to improve further:

### QUALITY OF EDUCATION

**Writing** - To enhance the writing curriculum in order to develop the children's writing skills and increase the percentage of children working at and beyond age related expectations.

**Cognitive Load** - To assist the children with developing effective strategies so that knowledge sticks and can be recalled in the future. To explore methods of assessment to check on knowledge retention.

### BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

To reduce the number of persistent absentees and close the gap between vulnerable groups.

To ensure that our younger children know what behaviours for learning look like.

To ensure that there is a consistent approach to behaviour at all points during the school day.

### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

To embed the ENRICHED values and use these as a vehicle to prepare the children for their future.

To continue to promote positive equality and diversity and celebrate differences across the Federation.

To map out Cultural Capital from Nursery to Year 6 to ensure children are given a wide range of experiences.

### EARLY YEARS

To ensure opportunities for communication and language are embedded in all areas of the curriculum in order to increase the number of children reaching age related expectations in the Communication and Language Early Learning Goal.

To develop the environments to maximise opportunities for learning.

### LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

To develop a robust assessment system for wider curriculum subjects.

To continue the transition towards amalgamation and move to the new site in September 2024.

## How can we be contacted?

If you would like to speak to a member of the Governing Body, then messages can be passed on via the school office or through emailing the Chair of Governors at [p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net](mailto:p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net)

## Where can I find out more about the Governing Body?

More information can be found on the website below:

<http://www.ox-close.durham.sch.uk/about-us/our-governing-body/>

## Future Updates

Our next Governor Newsletter will be at the end of the Autumn Term.

