



The Blue Sky Federation

Governor News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first governor newsletter for the Blue Sky Federation. In this newsletter, we will aim to tell you a little about ourselves, the aims of the governing board, and keep you up to date with our activities.

WHO WE ARE

The governing board of The Blue Sky Federation was inaugurated in September 2023 and we are committed to ensuring that our pupils, families and communities of both Summerfield School and Heelands School grow and thrive. We consist of a mixture of volunteer parent, co-opted and staff governors with experience across both schools and the full governing board meet at least once every term. As governors we are proud of our schools and our communities, and we work closely with the Executive Headteacher, leadership team, teachers and non-teaching staff in ensuring the schools are welcoming, encouraging environments for the children to learn.

WHAT WE DO

As governors, we play a strategic role whilst the Executive Headteacher is responsible for the routine running of the school.

As a Governing Board, we are expected to have a strong focus on three core responsibilities:

- Ensuring clarity of vision;
- 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

We are responsible for the conduct of the school and have to ensure that the education provided, and the way in which the children, staff and parents are treated, is in accordance with the law and with the various regulations laid down by the authorities – our role is that of, as they say, a ‘critical friend’.

We meet regularly and also visit both schools on a regular basis.

More information about the Governing Board and our role can be found on the websites of both schools under the heading ‘About Us’.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR?

- This school year, we have focused on working on establishing our federation and ensuring the strategy, ethos and vision is shared across both schools
- In line with our strategic leadership for Safeguarding, our Safeguarding Governors have visited school to meet with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure we understand what safeguarding systems are in place.
- Governors have also visited to learn more about how the curriculum works across both schools. This has included visits to the classrooms to observe lessons taking place and viewing the wonderful work and displays on classroom walls.
- To ensure we have an overview of how the school supports children with SEND, the SEND governors met with the SENDCo to learn what support is in place and to have an overview of how this is set up in the school.
- Governors were also involved in the recent Ofsted inspection at Heelands School, meeting with inspectors to discuss how governance works within the school and the federation.
- The full governing board have met several times this year, alongside meetings of the Curriculum and Resources committees.
- Governors were privileged to visit school and watch the lovely Nativity performance in December at Heelands School. We were very impressed with how well the children performed, they had obviously been working hard to learn their parts. We look forward to visiting more performances in the future.

LASTLY... We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm this year and for answering any questions we have when we visit, behaviour is always very good so all the children should be proud of themselves. We also would like to thank all our parents, carers and extended families for your support over the last year.

Thanks also to the Leadership team and staff at both schools for working so hard and supporting each other.

Good luck to our Year 6 children at Summerfield and our Year 2 children at Heelands as they move to the next stage of their school journey, it has been a pleasure to have you with us. We look forward to meeting the new children joining us in September.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Donna Bellhouse & Tammy Haughton
Co-chairs of the Governing Board

