



Governor Update

Stratford Rural Schools Federation

Spring term
2017
Issue #1

WELCOME FROM ERIC APPLETON, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

IN THIS ISSUE

A big welcome to all

Eric Appleton – Chair of Governors

On behalf of all the governors I would like to welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter. We aim to publish the newsletter at least once a term and will be making copies available to you on paper and online, where it can be downloaded from the school website. Through the newsletter, we hope to keep all members of the school community in touch with the latest governor events, activities and appointments.



Other ways to stay in touch

Don't forget, there is also plenty of school news and governor information on the school websites. On the governor pages for example, you can find out more about who we are, what we do and how our governing body is structured. There are also copies of our Terms of Reference (which set out the roles and responsibilities of the governing body and each committee), Governors' Handbook and Code of Conduct. Here are the links to the Governor pages for each school:

<http://www.wilmcotepriamary.org.uk/governors>

<http://snitterfieldschool.org.uk/about/governors/>

<http://loxley.schools.uk.com/Page.aspx?ID=43168>

What did we get up to last year?

Vital to the success of our federation is taking on board feedback from different stakeholder groups – children, parents, staff and the wider community. We need to know what we're doing well and what we're not so good at. We have recently carried out two surveys.

Staff Survey

In the Autumn Term we carried out a staff survey, in which we invited staff to comment anonymously on things like opportunities for professional development and leadership structures. The results are now in and we are enlisting the help of our two new Associate

Members, Lisa Sisterson and Sally Curson, who joined the governing body last term in order to provide advice in the fields of Talent Development and HR. Sally and Lisa are helping the governors to analyse the staff survey results. We will then draw up an action plan in consultation with the school leaders and staff which we can share with the rest of the school community and keep you updated on our progress.

We would like to thank the staff for taking the time to complete the survey which we hope will help us to ensure that our schools are happy and supportive places to work, where staff feel their views are sought and listened to.

Parent Survey

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to respond to the parents' survey which helped us to identify a number of areas for improvement. The good news was that overall the feedback was positive with no areas of concern with regard to the well-being, happiness and safety of the children. However, common to all schools was a need to improve communication (quite a broad topic and the biggest single area of concern), after school clubs and the choice/provision of school meals.

So what has changed as a result? Well, we've already worked with the schools to increase the number of school clubs and this newsletter is part of our plan to improve communications. School

meal provision at Loxley will improve once the works to extend the building are completed. Over the course of this year governors will continue to work with all three schools to make further improvements and we hope you notice the difference! There'll be another parent survey before the end of the summer term so you'll get an opportunity to tell us if you do. In the meantime if you have other areas of concern, do get in touch with us.

Monitoring Visits

Monitoring through visits to the school and through meetings with staff and pupils, is a key role of the Governing Body. It ensures that the federation is not only a happy place for everyone but also helps us to raise standards and offer the very best experience and opportunities for the children in our care. Every term, the governors work with the Executive Headteacher to establish priorities for school visits and monitoring that are closely linked to the schools' improvement plans. Governors are then allocated one or more of those priorities to monitor, for example by making school visits, looking at performance data or by talking to staff and pupils. This term, governor monitoring is focusing primarily on the following areas:

SAFEGUARDING – Attending safer employment training.

ATTENDANCE - Reviewing attendance data against targets and ensuring that progress continues to be made on our action plans.

TEACHING and LEARNING – Carrying out a 'Learning Walk' to review teaching and learning in Maths and also to explore learning environments. Governors will also be discussing Early Years provision with the Early Years Foundation Stage staff and will be holding discussions with pupils and looking at their books in order to review marking and the feedback that teachers give them on their work. The governors will also be talking to the children about community involvement and, at Loxley and Wilmcote, the schools' links with the Church.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – Meeting with the SEN coordinator to discuss the numbers of children in school who have special needs and the provision made for those pupils.

PUPIL PREMIUM – Looking at how the Pupil Premium is being spent in the current academic year and carry out forward planning for the Pupil Premium in 2017/18.

LEADERSHIP – Monitoring the function of the Senior Leadership Team. Meeting with English and Maths subject leaders to discuss their current action plans.



BEHAVIOUR & SAFETY A Health & Safety visit to all three schools is made every term by our H&S governor.

PARENT SURVEYS – Addressing the issues raised by the Parent Survey.

Governor Week

From Monday 6th February to Friday 10th February, the governors are taking part in a whole series of events in all three schools as part of a special Governor Week. Events will include:

What we love about our school: Face to face sessions in which the children will be able to tell the governors what they like – and no doubt a few things they don't – about their school.

Learning Walks: Opportunities for the governors to see the school in action, and to focus on areas highlighted in the school improvement plans.

Morning coffee with the staff

School council meetings

How we learn: Discussions with the children about their learning.

Lunch time chat: Governors can enjoy a roast chicken dinner at Snitterfield School, fish and chip Friday at Wilmcote or bring a packed lunch to Loxley and chat with the pupils as they eat.

Celebration Assemblies



Get in touch

If you have a query or have an issue you would like to raise with the governors, please contact the Clerk, **Helen Yeomans**, by email to yeomans.H1@welearn365.com or on 01789 292112. Alternatively, you can contact Eric Appleton, Chair of Governors at Appleton.E@welearn365.com

Who are we?

Chair of Governors: Eric Appleton
Vice Chair: Ruby Broomfield
Executive Headteacher: Sarah Plaskitt

Resources committee:

Nigel Ford (Chair, Parent governor)
Roger Harrison (Co-opted governor)
Dan Bake (Co-opted governor)
Lisa Sisterson (Associate Member)
Sally Curson (Associate Member)

Teaching & Learning committee:

Jon Queralt (Chair, Local Authority governor)
Beccy Smith (Parent Governor)
Fabienne Peckham (Co-opted governor)
Annya Rawstron (Staff governor)
Rachel Beacham (Foundation governor)

Children, Families & Community committee:

Ruby Broomfield (Chair, Co-opted governor)
Jonathan Baker (Foundation governor)
Wayne Berry (Co-opted governor)
Roz Bull (Associate Member)
Amanda Reilly (Associate Member)

GOVERNOR PROFILES

So you can get to know the governors we'll provide a short profile of each member in each newsletter. This term, meet ...

Wayne Berry

I am a father to two boys - one of whom, Archie, attends Snitterfield School and the other, Ben, will do in the future. I have been a co-opted governor for just over a year. I sit on the Children, Families & Communities committee and I have responsibility for looking at attendance monitoring within the federation. Professionally, my background is in aviation so I joined the governing body as a novice. The last twelve months have been quite an eye-opener into the complexities and frustrations the staff must work through to provide the great schools that our children enjoy. I feel privileged to be able to support the schools as part of the governing body, but also to act as a voice for parents and children

Vacancies

We're recruiting! If you're interested getting involved and have a little bit of time and energy to offer, come and talk to us! We are currently looking for a new Parent Governor for Wilmcote School and the Resources team needs a business savvy member to support the budget planning at Snitterfield. We also have two other vacancies across the governing body.