



Annual Report of the Governing Body of North Wolds Federation 2021/2022

This has been a difficult year for the Federation, for a number of reasons, from the temporary loss of our Executive Headteacher, to managing the return to face-to-face education for our children, but staff and governors have approached it all with the usual level of dedication that you would expect.

As children returned to school, there was a need to quickly understand where they were all up to as there had been differing levels of engagement with the online learning, and a concern that some would be a long way behind. Staff very quickly assessed this and put in place interventions to “catch-up” everyone who need it, with the result that by the end of the school year the data was indicating that all the children were making good progress given the disruption to their learning.

Mrs Allerston stepped up to the Executive Head role across both the schools and did an amazing job of holding things together until Mr Smiths return, and we thank her for doing so under the very difficult circumstances with repeated Covid outbreaks which had a significant impact on attendance of both staff and children.

Individual Governors completed subject reviews with staff Subject Leaders of every single subject on the syllabus and presented these to the Full Governing Body for discussion, we are confident that the intent, implementation and impact of all subjects is at least “good”. Reviews were also held of premises, and work required at both sites.

Governors have maintained a continuous review of Safeguarding measures throughout the Federation, to ensure that all our children are safe in school and that our policies for dealing with Safeguarding issues are up to date and in line with Government Guidelines/Regulations. This involves regular checks of the Single Central Register, and Incident Registers, as well as our designated Safeguarding Governor attending regular meetings with the Executive Head. All governors completed an updated Safeguarding Training Course.

Governors also wrote to the Local Authority regarding the school land near the new leisure centre which the LA had promised to clear and make good as part of the arrangement which saw us allow the passageway through school land to access the leisure centre. This had not been done, and a site meeting was arranged in the Summer to expedite it.

At each Resources Committee meeting, governors reviewed the school budget and 5 year Financial Plan and the spend against it, and in April approved the new budget.

In addition to the above, further Governor activity involved:

- Water pump improvement and intervention with the Environment Agency and the positive impact to the working environment in Nettleton school.
- Disability Discrimination Act Compliant Welfare suite at Market Rasen.
- Subject Matter reviews and funding prioritisation ensuring that we continue to build on our standards.
- Site condition surveys helping us to build a case and prioritise building improvements and maintenance – flooring etc. Previous examples include Quad glazing and boiler replacement.
- COVID management and quick support of funding redeployment to support remote learning etc.

- Additional funding for holiday clubs and funding of shortfall in government voucher scheme.
- Regular Health & Safety reviews at both sites (including Fire Drills). This also included follow-up to make sure that identified defects had been rectified.

Governors have considered the issue of road safety in the vicinity of Market Rasen Primary School after a number of people highlighted incidents on Kilnwell Road and at the junction of Mill Road and Chapel Street. A survey of Parents and Guardians was undertaken which yielded more than a hundred responses. A report is being produced which will go to the next full governors meeting and will be shared with parents. In the meantime Governors have been liaising with local Councillors and with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. Representatives of the Partnership have already indicated that they think there is a strong argument for additional measures such as the provision of a School Crossing Patrol ("Lollipop" Person) but want to undertake some additional analysis of the pedestrian and traffic flow in the area during school drop off and pick up times to enable them to identify the most suitable measures.

All in all its been a very busy year for the Governing Body and I thank them all for their effort and dedication to supporting (and challenging!) both schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ME', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Eckersley
Chair of Governors
North Wolds Federation